HUT!

Newsletter of the Minnesota Canoe Association

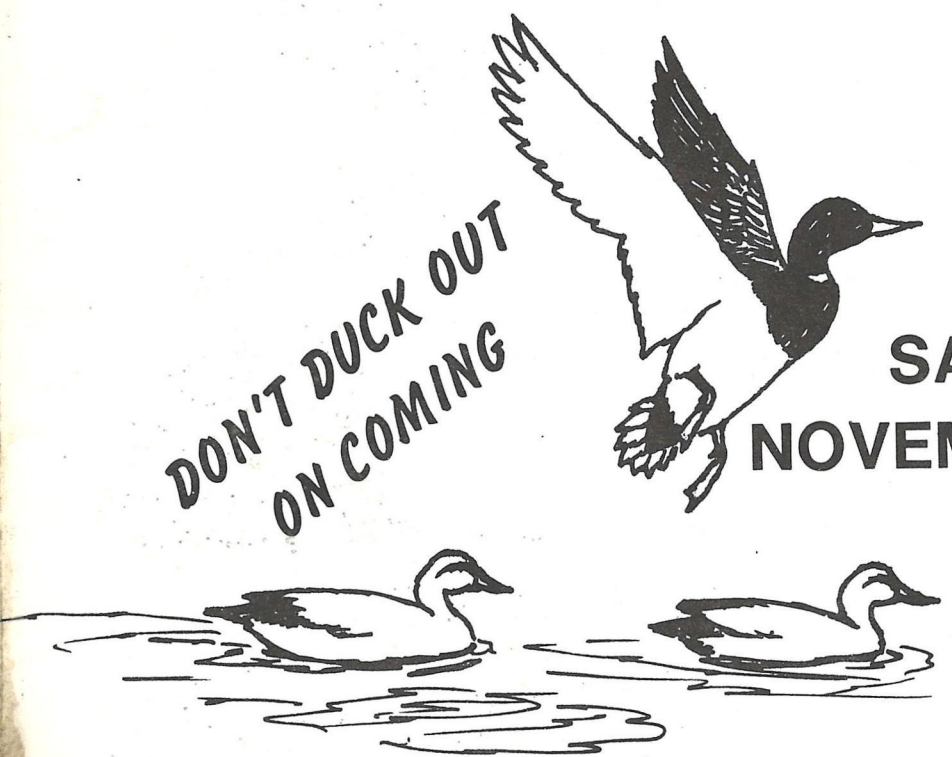
October

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November

ANNUAL BANQUET

MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION

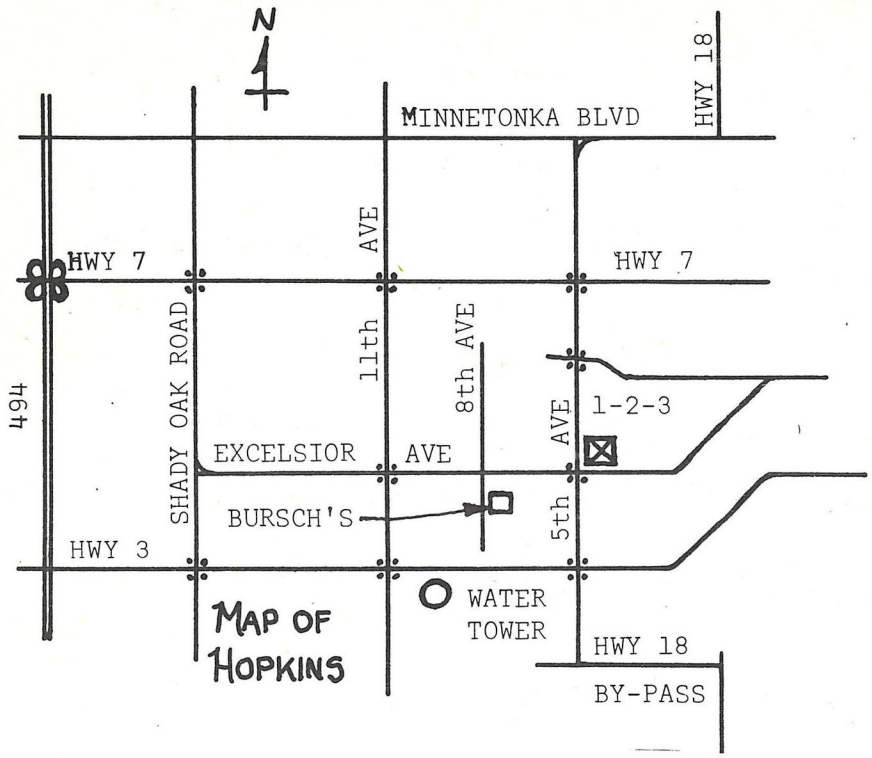


SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 15, 1980

"SEARCH BEYOND" RETURNS

You read in our March 1980 issue of HUT about the Yukon Territory-Alaskan Arctic Expedition being planned. During this past summer, that trip became a reality for four people in open canoes who spent six weeks covering some 1,100 miles of wilderness rivers, including some whitewater.

As our guest speakers at the Annual Banquet, the expedition members (Steve Anderson, Al Goldner, Mark Strand and Andy Baertsch) will recap their journey, from planning through conclusion, accompanied by some excellent photography by Mark Strand. Come and see the far north, from Dawson City to Fairbanks, in the light of the midnight sun.



MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL BANQUET
NOVEMBER 15, 1980

The old and new directors of the MCA want to invite you to attend a purely social evening of dining and canoe talk; complete with a guest speaker. Awards will be given by member MCA clubs.

This year's banquet will be held at Bursch's, 17 8th Ave. S., Hopkins (see map). Cocktails will begin at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00. The dinner will cost $9.50 per person (tax and gratuity included) and it will be served buffet style with three choices of meat (baked chicken, french fried fish and barbecued ribs).

Entrees include: salad and relish trays, Au gratin potatoes, rolls and butter and beverages (milk, coffee, tea and soda).

RESERVATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Area Code and Phone Number _____

Number of Reservations Having Buffet Dinner ____

Send this Reservation Form plus a check for $9.50 per dinner (made out to the Minnesota Canoe Association) to:

Penny Mielke
1880 E Shore Dr
St. Paul, Minnesota 55109

Please fill out the reservation form and mail it in as soon as possible to M. Gilman, 810 So 6th Street #1, Hopkins, MN 55343. RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY NOVEMBER 7th.

Editor's Note

by Barbara Ford, Editor

I hope you will notice the new format of NUT? this month. My new co-editor, Michelle Jerry, and I are attempting to put together a publication that you will enjoy reading. Michelle is also a student in Journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. We would appreciate any comments or suggestions you would have. It is your publication, please become part of it.

BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA
It's Political Survival

This is the last of the series concerning the BWCA dispute.

by Barbara Ford

During hearings in the summer of 1977 in Minnesota on the two bills, there was much shouting and finger pointing. Some people claimed that making the BWCA a full wilderness would deplete the local tax base to a critical degree. Resort owners said they would go bankrupt. Loggers said they would not have enough softwood if they were banned from the BWCA.

On the other side, a group was formed called the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. Its campaign includes a poster with a spectacular photograph of canoe country and two lines of small, white type: "The Boundary Water Wilderness--Take a Long Last Look Before It Vanishes."

The BWCA would vanish in a reletively few years, too, if the land continued to be abused. According to Superior National Forest Studies, the thin, rocky soils of the BWCA lands are the Forest's least productive and the most sensitive. If good forestry is practiced on the more fertile and accessible lands nearer the pulp mills, Minnesota can grow its present annual cut of two million cords of forest products on fewer than eight million acres--all outside of the BWCA, according to Heinselman.

"The BWCA is not a good place to grow trees for profit," William Nye, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources chief, said.

The other issue that was under consideration was the question of recreational use conflicts--motorcraft versus paddle canoes and snowmobiles versus cross-country skiers, Nye said. During that time, federal law regulation activities in the Canoe Area permitted the use of motorcraft on more than 60 percent of the water surface. Pressure was also heavy from snowmobiles in the congressional debates even though there have been only about 7,000 snowmobiler visits annually compared to 95,000 visits by paddlers, hikers, skiers, and snowshoers in the BWCA, according to Heinselman.

"Sources of Congestion and Visitor Dissatisfaction in the BWCA," by David Line, Forest Service geographer, said 93 percent of the paddlers found their experience impaired by encounters with motorized vehicles. Minnesota has 14,000 non-BWCA lakes on which motorboating is legal. Snowmobilers can legally operate on those same 14,000 lakes when they are frozen over, as well as on national and state forest lands, in many state parks, and on thousands of miles of state and private trails and along road rights-of-way.

All of the heated debate finally resulted in a compromise bill which was approved by the House Sub-committee on Parks in April of 1978. The proposal was introduced by Reps. Phillip Burton of California and Burce Vento of Minnesota. The compromise made a concession to both positions by allowing for more wilderness protection yet it opened an additional 15 lakes to motorboat use and allowing two snowmobiling corridors through the BWCA. The bill also contained a provision to require the government to buy the property of any resort owner who wants to sell but would change their operations from motorized recreation to wilderness canoeing, hiking and the like.

That bill was eventually replaced by one from Sen. Wendall Anderson of Minnesota. Anderson had made it clear that he did not support a bill sponsored by Fraser that would make the BWCA free from logging, mining, motorboats and snowmobiles.

But, it seemed as though there was more at stake than just a wildernesss designation for the Canoe Area. Rep. Fraser and Sen. Anderson were both looking at a seat in the Senate. Election results showed a definite north-south split among Minnestoa voters, causing Fraser to lose by a narrow margin. It seemed as though voters were judging him by his strong pro-wilderness stand.

Anderson may have lost the election because of his political goals and how he tried to achieve them instead of his views on the BWCA. His bill was too much of a comprimise, and a more acceptable one at that, to hurt him politically. His ambitions seemed to become more evident during one of his fund-raising events in St. Paul.

John Denver, singer and active member of environmentalist group, Friends of the Earth, performed in the Twin Cities in April of 1978 at a fund raiser for Anderson's Senate election campaign. They have known each other for two years, and their cooperation was never noticed until two weeks before that when Anderson made public his intentions for the BWCA. At least 160 of the 17,000 ticketholders reportedly asked for refunds in protest to Anderson's position.

Even though the issue of the BWCA Wilderness was supposedly settled, a suit seeking invalidation of the 1978 BWCA legislation was filed in U.S. District Court in Washington. In July of 1979 the Citizens Committee on the BWCA, composed of nine northeastern Minnesota residents and eight from the rest of the state

and a state funded budget of 40,000 dollars a year, creating a suit against the federal government. The suit asserted that the BWCA law violated the rights of handicapped individuals (a handicapped person is one of the plaintiffs) to travel freely in the northeastern lakes area of Minnesota. The law was also challenged on ground that the legislation was too imprecise in its definition of the BWCA boundaries, violating the terms of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty and arbitrarily dictated limits on outboard motor sizes.

The suit also considered mineral prospecting in the Boundary Waters.

In July U.S. District Judge Miles Lord dismissed all lawsuits challenging federal authority.

His ruling made the BWCA Act constitutional and blocks the DNR's attempt to lift or ease motorboat restrictions on 13 lakes at the perimeter of the wilderness. Instead, it gives the U.S. Forest Service jurisdiction over the BWCA.

Lord's decision still upholds certain rights of the state of Minnesota as long as it preserves the wilderness status of the Boundary Waters.

But he added that the state also "won a victory," referring to the question of state jurisdiction over mining and waters in the BWCA.

"Nothing in the act divests the state of its authority to regulate mining in the BWCA," he said. "In fact, since the act specifically states that Minnesota retains jurisdiction over its waters and may issue even more stringent regulations, it could thereby restrict the use of the waters in such fashion as would close the area to mining altogether."

Brian O'Neill, a Minneapolis attorney for the Sierra Club, said Lord's decision is a sweeping victory for the environmental community in Minnesota and for the state. We are happy with it in all respects."

The battle seems to be over, but further attempts are all ready being made to reverse Lord's decision.

DNR Commissioner Joseph Alexander said that Lord's decision will be appealed to the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis.

The fight may never be over but a major battle has been won in keeping the beautiful and gentle BWCA a wilderness.

JUST PADDLING

by Mike Gilman

It has been a good season for paddling, so here is a chance to let all of our MCA members in on your latest canoe oriented adventure, regardless of its magnitude.

We would like to know about that weekend campout on the river; your family cruise down that scenic section of flatwater; that local canoe race your town just had, (maybe it was their first annual); or that extensive canoe trip you were on that seemed to take up the whole summer (yet it wasn't long enough).

These and many more happenings are the bread and butter of what you do with your canoe from season to season. We would like to hear about it, from you, so that we can get it into print and share it with the rest of the paddlers.

It can be your way of telling us about the river you were on (the high/low water level or boat traffic), the different things you feel could be done to make it better (boat access, trash cleanup or hazard markings), or even something about the people you met along the way.

Just send us your articles and we'll see that it gets to print. These articles don't necessarily have to be real brief, as you've noticed before. Our cruise director Mike Vande Vyver had to condense his "Peshtigo Weekend" and it was still a full page.

Send your articles to either:

Barb Ford
970 West Hamilton Avenue #1
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Mike Gilman
810 S. 6th St. #1
Hopkins, MN 55343

REWARD

$100 or $50 per boat for information leading to recovery of stolen boats. Missing are a 18½ ft. Woodstrip International racing canoe and a red Outrage kayak with black seams. Contact John Wexler at 722-7069.

10TH ANNUAL SPRING TRIP

by Kenneth Espersen

Before 7 a.m. on April 19, 1980, I was awakened by my despairing ten-year-old son. The sky was completely clouded over and memories of rain, cold and ice from other years quickly filled by head. But remembering "CCO's" weather prediction, I said, "Don't worry, it will be a fine day."

I rolled over and drifted off to sleep. Five hours later I opened my eyes to a beautiful day with record breaking temperatures in the ninetys.

After pulling on my, "I'm a stripper" tee-shirt, I gave a short speech to all the participants in the 10th Annual Spring Canoe Trip. Seven canoes traveled Rice Creek that day.

Rice Creek overflows with wildlife. We enjoy seeing mallards, geese, cardinals, goldfinches, woodchucks, and fish. Needless to say, the river also contained garbage.

The water was not as high or as fast as last year. However, one canoe did dump and another took on enough water to float an expensive camera.

The lead canoe made it to Locke Park in 2½ hours. Each canoe had to be carried into Locke Park because of an obstruction across the creek. Walking through the thick brush put scratches on some badly sunburned bodies.

A list of canoeists, in the order of their arrival, includes:

Dave Kodada and Jack McNamora; Scott Teien and Mark Sagstetter; Larry & Christine Nagel and sons Peter & Andy; Ken Espersen and son Steven; Greg Berlin & son Jason and Jack Grundhofer; Gary Olson and son Pat; and Lou and Kathy Cristan.

At a pretty park in Fridley we lunched on cheese, sausage and crackers while day-dreaming about summer and the decade of the 80's.

THE BIGGEST TREE

The nation's largest jack pine (110.25 inches in circumference, 50 feet in height) is located on private property, just outside the boundaries of Lake Bronson State Park in northwestern Minnesota.

Confirmation of the DNR's claim was received recently by the American Forestry Association. The jack pine is larger than three others in the U.S. that had previously been classed as co-champions.

NORTH STAR SKI TOURING CLUB...STILL ON THE RIGHT TRACK

by Judy Rykken

Ski touring continues to grow as a sport which provides leisurely recreation as well as competitive opportunity for those who enjoy being active year-round and who appreciate the special beauty of the Minnesota winter. Canoeists, bikers, swimmers, and runners -- all appreciate skiing as a pleasant alternative way of keeping up their aerobic conditioning and experiencing the weather first-hand. For some of us, winter is the best season Minnesota has to offer. And North Star Ski Club has been growing along with the popularity of touring for many reasons.

Since it began in 1967 with a handful of enthusiasts, the club has expanded to over 3,000 members. But why join a club? Can't you just put on some skis and go out on your own? Sure you can, but North Star gives its members some very unique opportunities to enjoy ski touring. But wait a minute, let's discuss what the club offers in a more systematic way.

First, members receive a monthly newsletter (October-April) which includes personal experiences, updates on where to ski, new techniques, good jokes (when we can find them), and has a members "for sale" column.



PROTECT MINNESOTA'S COUGARS

by George Skinner

Bill Berg, a member of the DNR's Forest Wildlife Research Group has seen a cougar near Wawina. The last known cougar in Minnesota was shot 83 years ago.

On one can tell if federal protection extends to cougars on the state level. Minnesota's Game and Fish Laws booklet does not list the cougar in its index and U.S. endangered species laws refer to cougar subspecies. This type or loophole must be closed by the legislature.

Please contact your legislators. I have contacted Representative Bob Searles and Senator George Pillsbury.

"AVERAGE" WINTER PREDICTED

Last winter was probably a disappointment for all you avid cross-country skiers after having to repair skiis damaged from sliding over rocks and frozen dirt. But this winter might produce enough snow to cover those bare spots.

Earl Kuehn, State Climatology Office, University of MN, said, "based on 160 years of data and the 20 warmest early summers, their statistics show having an average winter." Because of the warm April, May, June and July we have had, he predicts an average winter.

Bruce Watson, publisher of MN Weather Almanac and Weather Guide for WCCO-TV predicts 60 inches of snow and slightly below average temperatures due to a cold snap in December.

"We won't have the melt off that we had last winter, so the cross country skiing should be better," Watson said. "Snow will stay around longer."

Dick Scaggs of the U of M of the Geography Department, said he would not commit himself to a forecast. Scaggs said, "Extended range forecasting, especially precipitation, is pretty much a toss of the coin."

The data required to make such a forecast is more than Scaggs has available and the amount of time required in studying what is available is more than he can devote.

ARE CANOEISTS INADVERTENTLY REDUCING LOON POPULATIONS?

by Helen Olson

Although many of us have wondered for years why the state of Minnesota does not admit that the mosquito is our state bird, it is, in fact, the loon which holds that honor.

According to Dave Bruggers, U of M raven researcher, this information should interest canoeists in the BWCA. Bruggers and Jim Titus of Syracuse University, who is studying loons, have noticed an interesting raven, sometimes crow, loon and human interaction.

As a canoe approaches the nest of a loon, the loon will slip silently off the nest, intending to keep its location a secret. Ravens and crows, who are amoung the most intelligent of birds, know the whereabouts of loon nests in their areas and move quickly in to raid the nest of eggs and/or chicks. The canoeist enjoys the scenery, the loon loses and the raven (crow) waits happily for his next opportunity.

Loon nests are always at waters-edge because loons' legs are located so far back on their bodies that they cannot walk well. They prefer to nest on very small, rocky islands, usually under a bushy overhang or in a reedy area. The nest is a pile of debris such as you would find along any shoreline in the Boundary Waters. The eggs are the size of large duck eggs and are brown, with darker spots. Eggs and chicks are vulnerable from early May until well into June.

While loon populations are holding their own on most lakes in the BWCA, they are losing ground in the most heavily used areas. Loon populations could be reduced if there increased use of the lakes.

LOON OBSERVATION PROGRAM INITIATED

A recent DNR announcement states that the agency is seeking individuals to take part in a loon observation program. The loon, Minnesota's state bird, has awakened the interest of many outdoor enthusiasts.

The program, conducted by the non-game wildlife office, involves sending in observation reports which provide the DNR with data on the bird's population.

Carol Henderson, non-game specialist, said some people have requested information on the life history, calls and ecology of the loon.

DESIGN CONCEPT INFLUENCES MINNESOTA VALLEY STATE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

Design is the key element in any trail. Design, therefore, is a tremendous challenge to members of the planning team for the Minnesota Valley State Trail. The trail has exceptional potential. It's scenic beauty could be impressive with the striking variety of natural and historical features in the area.

The Minnesota Valley Trail will extend more than 70 miles, from Fort Snelling to LeSueur, as authorized by state law.

Part of the trail will be built along abandoned railroads; the remainder will wind through the valley, slipping in and out of view of the river that, in earlier days, served Indians, voyageurs, and settlers.

The incredible variety that exists includes: bluffs, the river, the flood-plain marshes, gently-rolling hills, clear streams and wilderness lakes, woods carpeted with green nettles, oak-dotted prairies, plus picturesque historical buildings and farms.

MASTER PLAN STUDIES OF MISSISSIPPI RIVER UNDERWAY

$350 million in master plan studies of the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) are now underway. The studies include research and analysis of management, navigation/transportation, environmental, dredged material disposal, computer system feasibility, and public participation/information activities.

The research represents cooperative efforts among state governments, federal agencies, local governments, universities, businesses, special interest groups and citizens.

The Master Plan purpose is to identify economic, recreational and environmental objectives for the UMRS, as well as identifying any authorities needed to meet those objectives.

Several research projects by the Environmental Studies Sub-Work Team have already begun. These studies include a summary resource description of the UMRS; identification of ways to prevent or reduce damages to fish and wildlife resources which may be related to navigation of the UMRS; and determination of the effects commercial and recreational navigation have on fish and wildlife, wilderness, water quality and recreation opportunities.

OUTDOORS NOT CLOSED FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

People with physical handicapped who enjoy the outdoors will find that the DNR has taken several measures to make it possible.

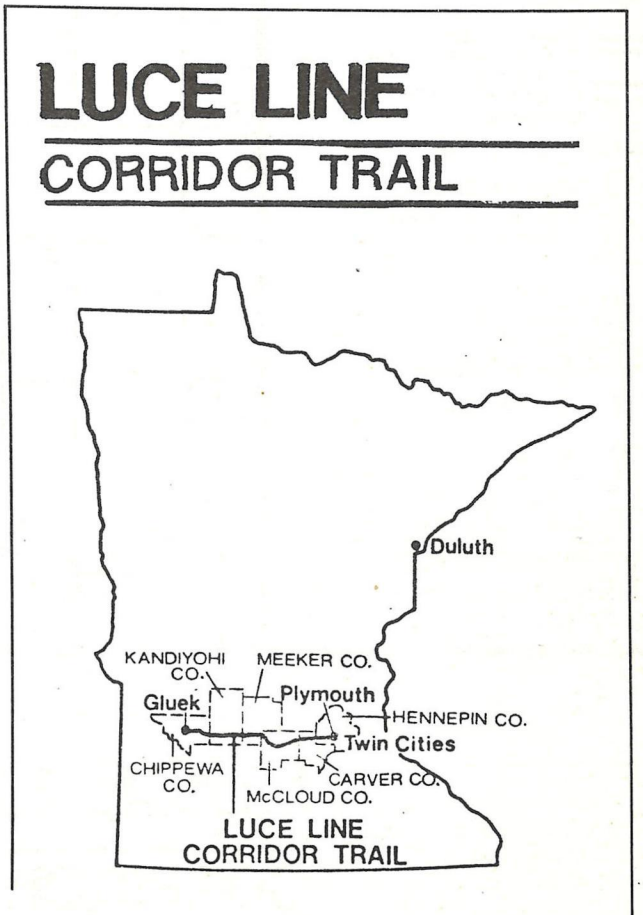
In 1977, the Department received more than $500,000 in federal funds to create or remodel facilities at 40 state parks to provide accessibility for all persons.

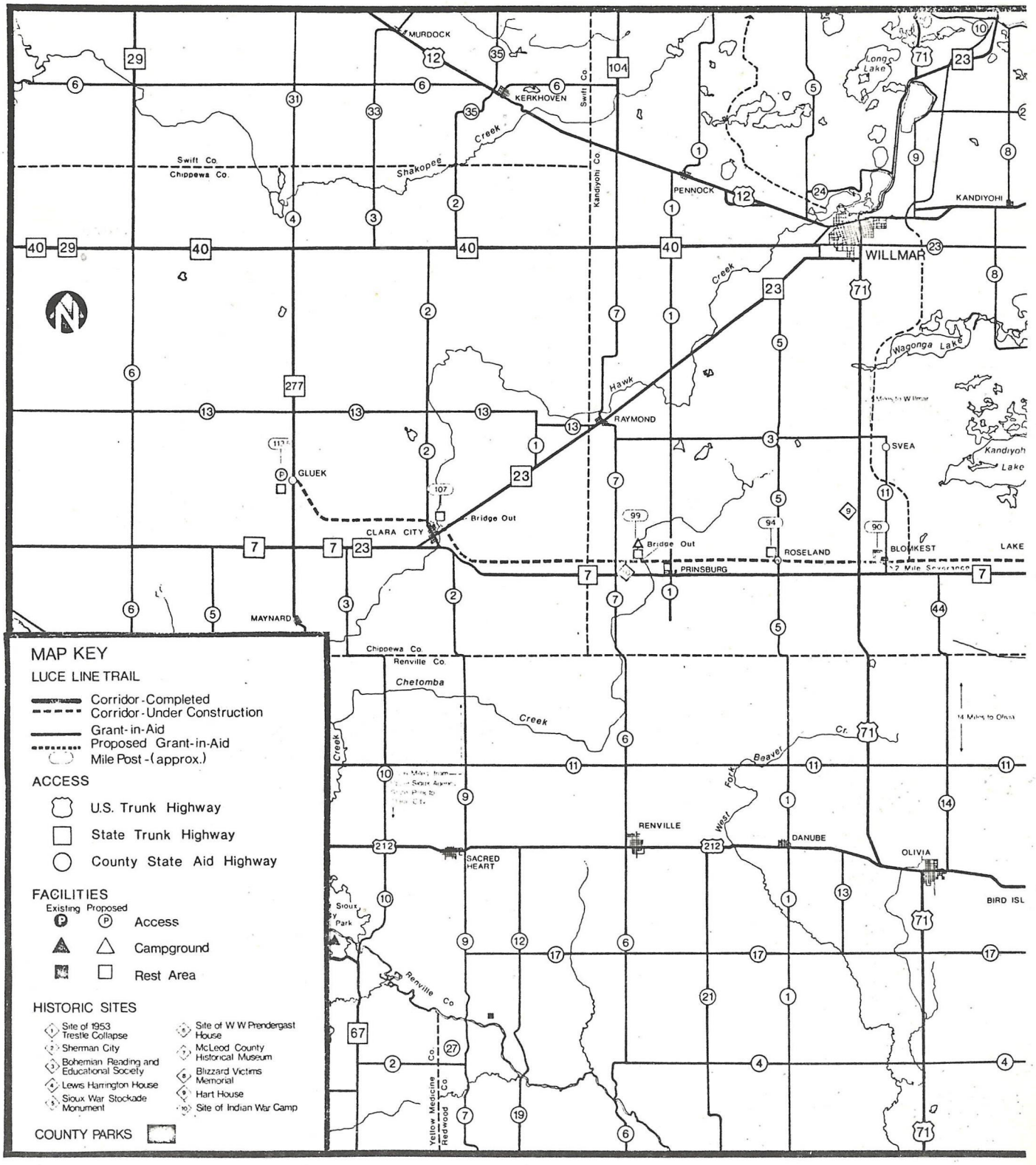
Sanitation buildings, picnic tables, nature trails and parking areas are examples of facilities that were modified or built to permit their use by those with physical handicapps.

A trail was built suitable for use by those in wheel chairs, the blind, and other physically handicapped persons. Braille was used to identify the various natural phenomena along the trail.

In addition, there are various state laws aimed at making it easier for the physically handicapped to enjoy hunting.

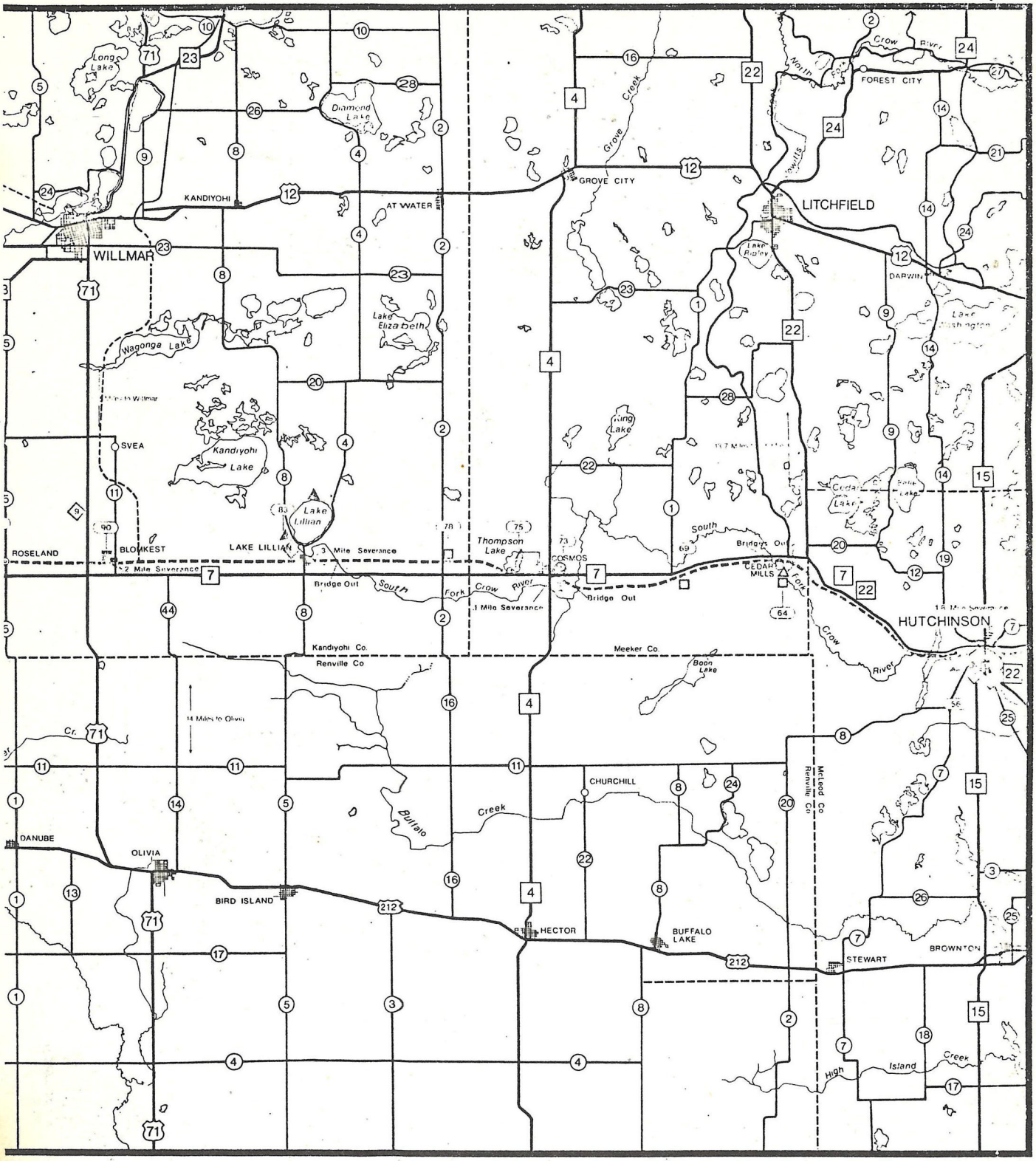
Local conservation officers can issue special permits to shoot or hunt from a standing vehicle to licensed hunters who are physically unable to walk.

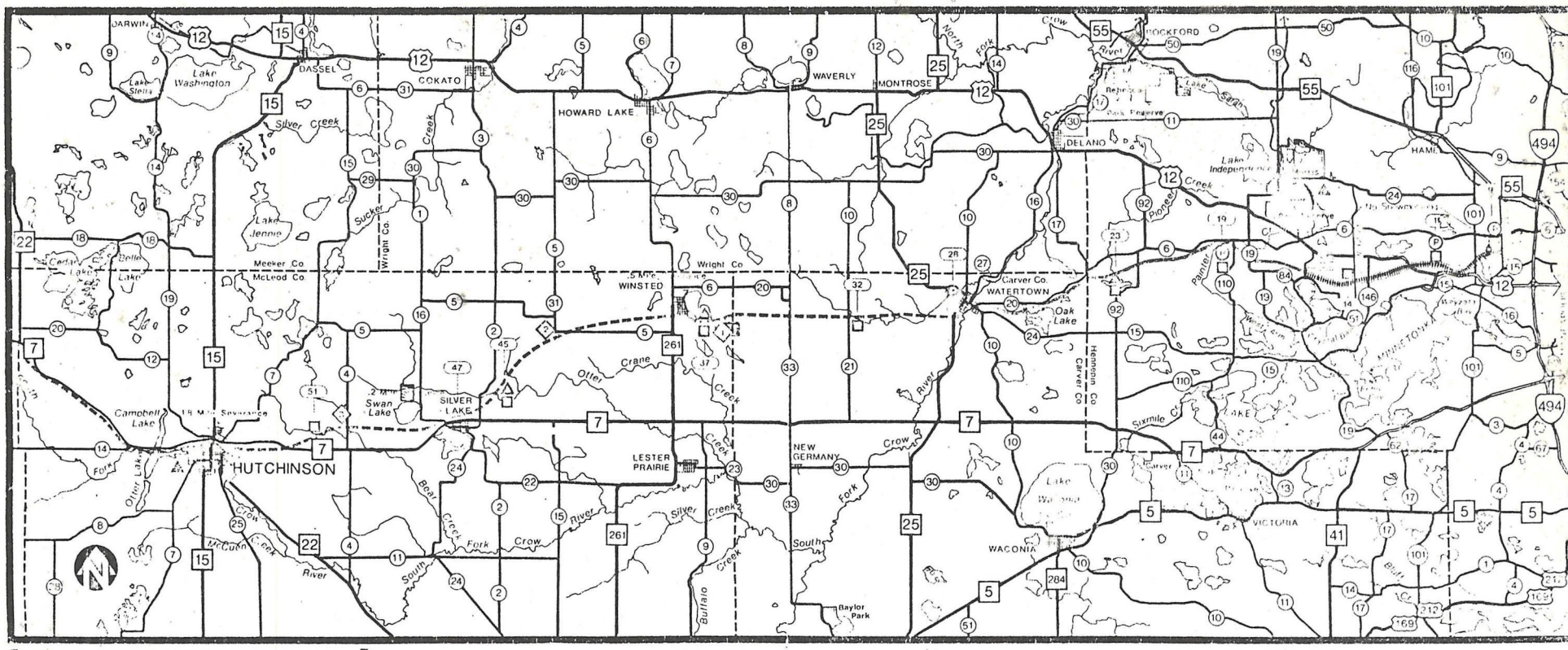




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Kandiyohi Lake
Lake Lillian
Thompson Lake
Lake Ripley
Lake Washington
Cedar Lake
Swing Lake
Boon Lake
Buffalo Creek
Grove Creek
North Fork Crow River
South Fork Crow River
Crow River
High Island Creek
Bridge Out
3 Mile Severance
2 Mile Severance
1 Mile Severance
14 Miles to Olivia



HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In 1902, W.L. Luce began a 1,000 mile rail service from Minneapolis to Brookings, South Dakota. Development of the Luce Electric Short Line Railway began in 1913, but due to financial difficulties, the line terminated at Gluek, Minnesota in 1927. In later years, the railroad was purchased by Chicago Northwestern and further financial dismay caused the line to be abandoned in 1971.

The Luce Line Trail Association, comprised of members of various recreational organizations first brought the Luce Line Trail concept into reality. Largely because of the Association's efforts, the trail was authorized by the Minnesota Legislature in 1973 to become part of the DNR's corridor trail system. The railroad right-of-way was purchased in 1974-1975, and officially designated in 1976.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Luce Line Trail closely follows a route used by the Dakota Indians nearly two centuries ago. It preserves miles of this unique prairie land. Starting in the rolling hardwood countryside of residential Wayzata, the trail runs westward 104 miles through Watertown, Winsted, Silver Lake, Hutchinson, Cedar Mills, Cosmos, Lake Lillian, Blomkest, Prinsburg and Clara City. **It traverses six counties and terminates in Gluek, Minnesota, only 48 miles short of the Minnesota-South Dakota border.**

The 100-foot right-of-way of this abandoned railroad grade lends itself well to the multi-use trail concept. The main grade is being developed for bicyclists and hikers for summer use and for snowmobilers during winter. A separate trail treadway will be developed parallel to the main grade, to be utilized by equestrians, cross country skiiers, and hikers.

To date, a hard-packed limestone surface has been placed on the first twenty miles from Vicksburg Lane in Plymouth to Watertown at the Crow River. The parallel treadway has also been developed in this area. All motorized vehicles are restricted from the trail, except snowmobiles. Snowmobiles are excluded from Vicksburg Lane to Stubbs Bay Road.

The remaining 84 miles has been cleared of old railroad ties and the surface graded. Motorized vehicles, except snowmobiles, are prohibited on this section. This segment is in early stages of development; bridges are missing or have not been restored with proper decking and railing. There are portions of the right-of-way not presently owned by the State in several small towns. When bypassing these areas, local ordinances should be consulted and trespassing on private property avoided.

As development continues on the Luce Line Trail, consideration will be given to as many user groups as possible. **Wayside rests, picnic areas, camping facilities, and parking lots will be provided in the future.**

GRANT-IN-AID

The Minnesota Trail Assistance Programs provide grants-in-aid for trail user organizations and local units of government to acquire, develop and maintain their own trail systems. This is done on a cost-sharing basis. Grant-in-Aid trails established in Hennepin, Meeker, Wright and Kandiyohi Counties provide over 500 miles of additional spurs and access to the Luce Line Trail. The program has greatly enhanced cooperation between trail users, local units of government, private landowners, and the DNR.

ADMINISTRATION

The Luce Line Trail is one of eleven corridor trails administered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. There is no user fee required for these trails. For more information about these trails, or regulations governing their use, write:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Trail Section
196 Centennial Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

1979-80 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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If interested call John Wexler, 722-7060.
Except where noted, all area codes are 612.

SPONSOR LISTINGS

Business owners, people in professional practices, and individuals listed in this section are lending support to the MCA and making their products and services known to the club members by using these Sponsor Listings. Contact Helen Olson at 447-4904 if you would like to be listed.

Members are encouraged to patronize these sponsors.

.....

Strip Canoe Supplies
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Complete wood pre-cut for a strip canoe, gunwales, thwarts, seats, etc. About $80-100 for sitka spruce or redwood.

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HUT! MOVES INTO BIGTIME ADVERTISING

Hut is now offering a full-blown advertising program. An attractive pricing shedule is available. For example, a quarter-page ad can be run for three months for only $18.00 per month. Prices are lower for longer runs.

The market which is tapped through HUT! advertising is unique. A well-timed and carefully-placed ad can increase buying-traffic dramatically.

Even the little guys can afford to advertise by using the new Sponsor Listings. One-eighth of a column in this section is available for six months for only $30.00, and for a full year for only $42.00. There are many products and businesses which can benefit by keeping their names before the members of the MCA in these ads.



MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION. INC.
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To Promote a Wholesome Family Recreational Activity,
Join The Minnesota Canoe Association Today!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name (Last name first) _____
Address _____
City and State _____ Telephone _____
Zip Code (Our publication will not reach you without it) _____
Age _____ Sex _____ Number of years canoeing _____
Occupation _____ Own Canoe? _____ Type _____
How many others in your family canoe? _____

Type of Membership (Check one):

( ) Regular, $8.00 ( ) Contributing, $50.00
( ) Supportive, $25.00 ( ) Life, $100.00

Make checks payable and send payment to the Minnesota Canoe Association, P.O. Box 14177, University Station, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414.

If you are a member of one of the MCA Chapters, please circle your affiliation below:

1. Voyageur-Brigade du Canots du Nord
2. Cascaders
3. Marathon
4. 3M
5. Hiawatha
6. Desert-Austin

For office use. Do not write here.