

of a canoe on a sandy beach, the crackle of a campfire."



*Bill Rom's*  
**CANOE COUNTRY**  
*Outfitters*

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1975 CANOE COUNTRY NEWSLETTER

Another year has rolled by, a summer of high water but generally good weather prevailing. New threats to preservation of the wilderness character of the canoe area have come up. The number of canoeing visitors has stabilized. U.S. Forest Service has a new management plan that offers very little that is new and falls far short of urgent planning that will assure perpetuation of this endangered and unique canoe area.

**EMBATTLED WILDERNESS** - Copper-nickel vein is discovered to run through Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and International Nickel Co. proposes huge open pit operation just outside BWCA near Gabbro Lake and the South Kawishiwi River. Fear is that toxic wastes may perpetually seep into BWCA waters, killing aquatic life, pollute the air, movement will be into BWCA to mine when outside ore is exhausted (20 to 30 years). Repeals Court has ruled that U.S. Forest Service may make decision on prospecting and mining in BWCA, killed moratorium on no mining or prospecting in BWCA. Izaak Walton League is leading fight to protect BWCA from destruction by mining.

North Star Chapter of Sierra Club and the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group have brought joint suit against U.S. Forest Service and certain logging companies to stop logging in BWCA. Outcome of trial in Federal court at this writing uncertain. Fledgling Sierra Club chapter has taken leadership in defense of BWCA & needs funds badly. Send supporting money to Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, BWCA account, 807 Midland Bank Bldg., Minneapolis, Mn. 55401. Sierra Club is also deeply involved in mining issue. Why must the people continually battle, maintain a constant vigilance and even bring suit against the U.S. Forest Service to protect the BWCA? Would the Interior Department Park Service be a better administrator?

Meanwhile Algonquin Wildlands League has led successful fight to stop logging in Quetico Park. Quetico now classified as "Wilderness Park", will ban motors in 1975 except for boundary waters including Basswood, Big Sag, Knife, Crooked, La Croix, and Namakan River. Motors 10 h.p. or less still permitted on these waters as well as on Minn, McAree, Maligne River thru Tanner Lake, Wolseley, Beaverhouse, Quetico, and Wawig River to Kawa Bay of Kawnipi.

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RATES - Canoe trips will cost \$16.00 per diem in 1975, \$12.00 under 16 years of age (after 2 adult rates) and for Scout and Church groups of 8 or more. Weekly rate \$105.00, and \$77.00 for groups. One leader free out of each 10 persons for non-profit groups that have outfitted with us before. In partial outfitting, canoes \$8.00 per day, non-profit groups receiving 25% discount on partial outfitting. Cost of Canadian fly-in outpost camp is \$219.00 per person (\$169.00 under 16), Saturday to Saturday. This comfortable camp has become very popular, was near fully booked last summer. Fly-in camp-out trips have increased in popularity too. Fourtown, La Croix, Beaverhouse packages are offered again, adding the Three Mile north of La Croix, which opens up the Namakan River, Wolseley Lake, and the Bearpelt area of the Quetico. A 10 day fly-in to Nym Lake at the top of the Park, paddling completely across the Quetico to Ely, gained in popularity too, as well as the fly-in to Big Sag, motoring or paddling out.

We've tried to keep price increase not over increased cost of outfitting. Grumman canoes had 3 increases this past year, expect to be higher in 1975 due to quadrupling of bauxite royalties (from which aluminum is made). Packs, tents, food, labor, etc. have all jumped in price needless to say. We added 45 new tents last year (though order placed in January wasn't delivered until mid-August). Ordered 20 more new tents, 200 packs for next season. Replaced all motors. Put up new metal storage building on lot next door this fall, replacing 2 wood sheds 75 years old.

SPORTS SHOWS - We will be at the Chicago Amphitheatre Jan. 25-Feb. 3; Milwaukee Mar. 15-24; and Minneapolis Mar. 29 - April 7. Drop in to renew acquaintance and to say hello.

1974 TRIPS - In mid July Barb and I took a pleasant overnighter from Slim to Big Lakes via Little Rice, Hook, Rice and La Pond. Perfect weather, no bugs, lovely scenery, and one of nicest campsites (on Rice) greeted us. Timber wolf scampered along shore on La Pond. Though one portage was 540 rods long, we took it non-stop with light pack and 15' lightweight Grumman canoe, passing 12 canoe rests! Another short trip in August taken from our outpost cabins on Harris Lake was enjoyable. Explored old abandoned gold mine. Our Camp Harris is nestled in the heart of an untrammled, wild canoe area.

During past winter visited Bill's ancestral home in upper Yugoslavia. Toured Julian alps (skied one day at Vogel), visited cousins and aunt in Slovenia, down the Adriatic coast to old Roman town of Zadar, visited Venice and Milan where we saw "Last Supper" and "Swan Lake" performance at La Scala. Trip we always wanted to make (taken through our ski club). In September flew our seaplane with son Roger to Ft. Severn on Hudson's Bay. Enjoyed a 4 day stay with the soft-spoken Cree, hunting geese and fishing speckled trout - a busman's holiday! Made 4 trips to our outpost tent cabin on remote Heckarwe Lake. Excellent walleye fishing there particularly in July and August.

Henry David Thoreau said "In Wildness is the preservation of the World... from the forest and wilderness come the tonics and barks which brace mankind..." How true it is that a few days in the bush can be so rejuvenating. In these days of stress and uncertainty, nothing is so important as to refresh one's body and soul, as only a wilderness experience can do. And no wilderness area is so accessible as our beloved wilderness canoe country. Come up if only for a few days - it will do you untold good. Ely's new airport and good highways put you only a few hours away. We have the finest of everything to take care of your canoeing needs, and this is our 30th year.

May all your winds be tail winds and your portages short --!

Sincerely,

*Bill Rom*

Bill Rom, Managing Owner  
CANOE COUNTRY OUTFITTERS

