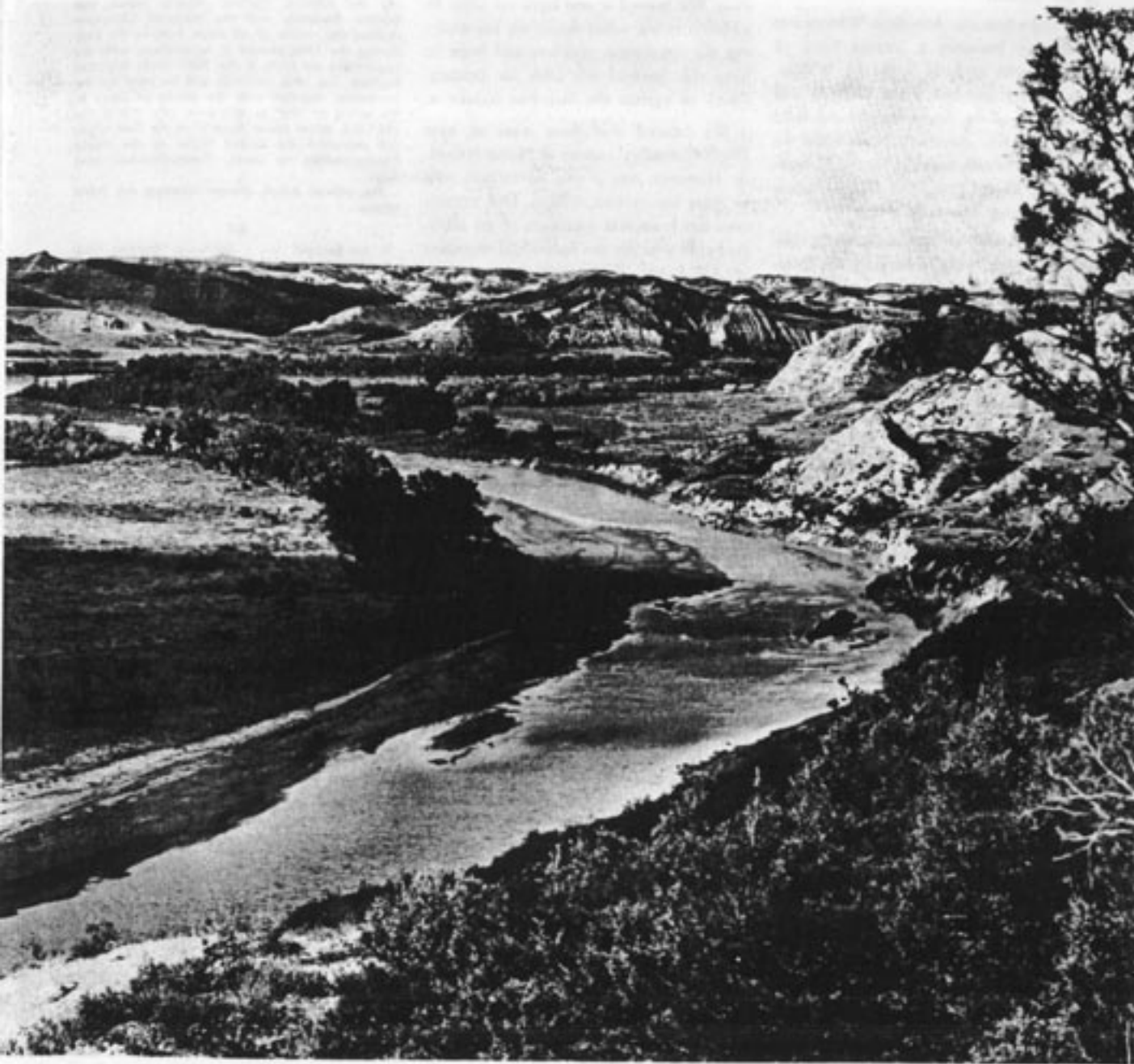


American White Water

The Journal of the American Whitewater Affiliation



*Little Missouri River, North Dakota National Grasslands. Photo by
Ed Bry, North Dakota State Game & Fish Dept., Bismarck, N. D.*

WINTER 1966-1967

VOLUME XII, NO. 3

EDITORIAL

In order to form a more perfect union, avoid confusion and to reaffirm the purposes of AWA we are publishing the Constitution and By Laws in this copy of the Journal.

If and when the American Whitewater Affiliation becomes a leading force in conservation, ranking with the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club, it will be because of the determination and hard work of a few members. Now when we are unable to rally support for the National Scenic Rivers Protective Bill, we salute the following who keep trying:

Ed Alexander for communications, conservation and trying to keep up the interest of the Affiliates in the organization.

Al Beletz for his fight to save the Meramec River, against too great odds, and for his continuing dedication to conservation after his river was lost to progress.

John Bombay for the formation of conservation groups in Tennessee who have held off attempts to dam the South Fork of the Cumberland and are now working to save the Obed. He did this while making safety films and handling the Safety Chairman's job for AWA often using his own money.

Oz Hawksley for taking the time from his valuable work in Conservation Education to prepare a study of Missouri's best rivers for the Governor's Wild Rivers Committee and for the excellent job he did on a study of the Irish Wilderness for the Wilderness Society.

Dean Norman, who although struck by personal tragedy, is ably representing AWA in conservation, is continuing his exploration and is contributing so much to the Journal.

Charles Smith, Business Manager, for doing a great job for two Editors and for the AWA without losing his cool or his efficiency.

It was necessary to call on the above stalwarts for assistance because although the September, 1966, Journal was published and shipped September 23, 1966, it reached the members too late for the deadline on copy and advertising. We will therefore have to publish another time without the extra money from those who

supply our gear. However, we are in touch with Harry Kurshenbaum and hope to have something for the Spring Issue.

As you read the Constitution you will see that the distribution of the Journal is the responsibility of the Editorial Chairman. We booted it and have no alibi. In addition to our other duties we are studying the circulation problem and hope to have this Journal out early in January. Check us against the date you receive it.

We figured that there were at least 150,000 standard canoes in North America. However, one of our advertisers tells us there are several million. Our experience has been that members of an affiliated club who are not individual members of AWA have little interest in the organization. Commercial publications such as Field and Stream, Outdoor Life and Sports Afield are now all coming out in favor of conservation. These publications are supported by advertisers who sell gear made for the mechanized crowd. Once a year they will run a short article about a canoe being used for some adventure. They are, however, of little interest to the paddle boater, even the camping articles. Their conservation departments make no attempt to gain support for River Protective legislation.

We do not know whether AWA is exclusive by choice, design or because the majority of paddle boaters never heard of us. The last unaffiliated canoeist we met was a consulting engineer from Connecticut, who had made what he considered the usual 600 mile exploratory trips to James Bay and through the Barrens. There may be thousands of such articulate, influential and well informed people who have not heard of our organization. As you are not subscribers to a magazine but members of an organization supposedly devoted to the purposes of the AWA, the Editorial Council will appreciate your help in making the Journal diversified and attractive enough to pull in valuable new members.

Note: Questions or information regarding racing should be addressed to the Racing Editor. Jay needs to get all such information before it comes to us. Other letters, ideas and articles should be sent to the Editor or a member of the Editorial Council.

1966 A.C.A. WHITE WATER SLALOM RANKINGS ANNOUNCED

The National Slalom Committee of the American Canoe Association has completed its work of ranking the top eastern racers in white water slalom for the 1966 racing season. The committee, composed of divisional chairmen representing the Atlantic, Central, Middle States and Eastern Divisions, and the National Chairman studied the results of all races held in the East during the 1966 season in accordance with the regulations set forth in the 1967 Team Selection Method. The 1966 rankings will be used by the committee together with the results of races in the spring of 1967 to determine who makes the 1967 U.S. White Water Team from the East which will represent the United States at the World Championships in Lipno, Czechoslovakia next July.

The official A.C.A. Slalom rankings are listed below:

	K-1
1. Les Bechdel	Wildwater Boating Club
2. Eric Evans	Ledyard Canoe Club of Dartmouth
3. Charlie Bridge	Canoe Cruisers Assoc.
4. Jo Knight	Ledyard Canoe Club of Dartmouth
5. Sandy Campbell	Ledyard Canoe Club of Dartmouth
6. Mike Stanley	Kayak and Canoe Club of New York
7. Bart Hawthaway	Kayak and Canoe Club of Boston
8. Jay Evans	Ledyard Canoe Club of Dartmouth
9. Tom Wilson	M.I.T. Outing Club
10. Bill Prime	Kayak and Canoe Club of New York
	K-1W
1. Bobb Wright	Kayak and Canoe Club of Boston
2. Terry Franz	Canoe Cruisers Assoc.
3. Nancy Abrams	Kayak and Canoe Club of Boston
4. Jan Binger	Kayak and Canoe Club of New York
	C-1
1. Tom Southworth	Kayak and Canoe Club of Boston
2. Wick Walker	Ledyard Canoe Club of Dartmouth
3. Bill Bickham	Penn State Outing Club
4. John Sweet	Penn State Outing Club
5. Dove Kurtz	Explorer Post III
6. John Bridge	Canoe Cruisers Assoc.
7. John Burton	Ledyard Canoe Club of Dartmouth
	C-2
1. Connet & Raleigh	Canoe Cruisers Association
2. Bechdel & Kurtz	Wildwater Boating Club
3. Bridge & Bridge	Canoe Cruisers Association
4. Osborne & Heinzerling	Kayak and Canoe Club of New York
5. Sweet & Bickham	Penn State Outing Club
	C-2M
1. Southworth & Abrams	Kayak and Canoe Club of Boston
2. Bickham & Wright	K.C.C.B. & P.S.O.C.
3. Lewis & Turner	Canoe Cruisers Association
4. Sweet & Modine	Penn State Outing Club

From Jay Evans, A.C.A.

American WHITE WATER



The purpose of the American Whitewater Affiliation, formed in 1954, is to:

Encourage the exploration, enjoyment, and preservation of American recreational waterways for man-powered craft; Protect the wilderness character of waterways through conservation of water, forests, parks, wildlife and related resources;

Promote safety and proficiency in all aspects of white water activities such as the navigation of moving water, teaching, teamwork, leadership, and equipment design by publishing and demonstrating developments in these and related fields; Promote appreciation for the recreational value of wilderness cruising and of white water sports.

Opportunity for membership in this affiliation is open to all individuals interested in the recreational use of American waterways who will subscribe to the above purpose.

Re: The Format.

When we accepted the challenge of trying to get communication to the membership by publishing a Journal our knowledge of the procedure was zero. Printers who would listen to us and consider publishing a Journal for an unknown organization showed no interest in printing a 6 x 9 magazine which had been published once in 1966. Three printers offered to try the job if they could make it a handsome standard publication which they believed would grow into something worthwhile. We chose a printer who would help, and we agreed with him on terms. We still do.

Ed.

The Journal of The American Whitewater Affiliation
Winter 1966-67

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American White Water is published quarterly and mailed to all members of the Affiliation beginning in January. Annual dues are \$2.50, payable March 1st. All renewals should be addressed to the Circulation Manager. New members please apply to Membership Chairman. Deadline for insertion of copy and advertising for the next issue will be Feb. 15.

WE NEED comprehensive articles on our free-flowing rivers accompanied by black and white photos; ideas on boating techniques and equipment design; reports from affiliates on any major conservation issues in your area including water pollution control; progress reports on your State's program for river preservation.

A LAND BUILT BY FIRE AND WATER

Pictures by Ed Bry, North Dakota Game and Fish Department

by Dean Norman

"It looks like Hell with the fires out." General Alfred Sully described the North Dakota Badlands this way in 1864. But the General was looking for Indians to shoot, and probably wasn't in the right mood to fully appreciate scenery.

If the North Dakota Badlands look like Hell, then Hell is a very beautiful place. At any rate, the fires are not out. Underground coal veins are burning, and as they burn the clay above the coal is baked into natural red brick called "scoria." As the coal is consumed the overlying clay beds collapse, and crevices leading to the surface supply oxygen to keep the coal burning.

One coal vein has been burning since sometime before the first settlers saw it in the 1880s. Another one was started burning in Teddy Roosevelt National Park by a prairie fire in 1954.

Throughout the region are spectacular bluffs with many bands of the red brick showing where underground fires have burned during past centuries. The collapse and erosion influenced by these underground fires has had a great deal to do with the sculpturing of the bluffs.

The North Dakota Badlands is a magnificent landscape built by fire and water. As is true in many beautiful wild regions, one of the best ways to see the landscape is to float down the river that has carved the valleys and bluffs.

Three Days on the Little Missouri

I canoed about 60 miles of the Little Missouri River in mid July, 1965. I started about 55 miles upstream from Medora, North Dakota, and floated to the north end of the unit of Teddy Roosevelt National Park near Medora.

As I drove down into the valley of the Little Missouri to reach a put-in point west of Amidon, the rolling grassland became extremely broken up by clay bluffs with parallel bands of many colors—white, red, blue, green, gray, yellow, tan, black.

Some north and east facing slopes were timbered with junipers. At the river

edge were groves of cottonwood. Small ravines sometimes sheltered a few green ash. But the landscape was primarily semi-arid grassland and clay bluffs.

Viewed from the river the scenery was sculptured in proportions that made the bluffs appear thousands of feet high, although the scale is actually only in hundreds of feet.

During the entire three day trip there was a continuous panoramic view of bluffs in constantly changing arrangements. I wished my eyes were placed on the sides of my head like a woodcock so that I could have seen a 360° view.

The delicious mood of wildness grew stronger as I paddled mile after mile with nothing but wild scenes and sounds around me. At one point I rounded a bend and a view appeared that was so good I had to stand up and holler. My voice bounced back from the bluffs, and the knowledge that I could act like a damn fool without feeling like one made the mood of freedom and wildness perfect.

Wildlife was relatively scarce. Everything has plenty of living space in the badlands. There were always a few song birds along the river, and occasionally a hawk or eagle soaring above. Once a pair of mule deer burst from a small tributary canyon. The buck turned and ran up another canyon, but the doe splashed across the river ahead of me.

Several times a day the canoe would pass herds of Herefords grazing in the bottomlands. The cattle would stare suspiciously. Then a few calves would begin to bawl, and soon the herd would be running along the river ahead of the canoe. Usually they would decide that safety lay on the other side of the river, and I would have to stop the canoe while the cattle splashed across at a shallow riffle. One herd ran ahead of me for two miles and crossed the river three times before disappearing into a cottonwood grove. The cattle seemed as wild as the buffalo must have been.

At night the temperature dropped to

65° F. During the day temperature rose to 85° F. But since there was no shade on the river, objects absorbed heat from the direct sunlight and became hotter than the air. I saw the mercury rise to 106° when the thermometer was lying on a pucksack. I flopped into the river at intervals when the heat became unbearable.

I have avoided saying much about the river up to now, because by comparison with familiar canoeing rivers it is not so good. However, it is a wild pathway through a wild landscape and I would not change it. The gradient is about three feet per mile. There are no rapids, but there are frequent riffles between pools.

I don't know what level would be considered normal. In a semi-arid region like this there are probably no "normal" water conditions, but only a wide fluctuation of conditions.

If the scenery had not been so good I probably could have avoided hanging up in shallow riffles. But due to lack of attention to the water I often hung up, and had to walk the canoe through to deeper water.

I could touch bottom with my paddle most of the time in the pools, and could rarely get a full bite with the paddle blade. However, it is difficult to say how deep the water actually was at any point. The river carries so much fine clay sediment that there is no distinct division between the river and its bed.

At the surface the river is mostly liquid, but with enough clay in it to give it the color of heavily creamed coffee. At increasing depth below the surface the proportion of clay becomes greater and that of water less. When you reach the point where the canoe bottom will not slide through it, that could probably be called the bed of the river.

I have heard that sediment will settle out of muddy water when it is boiled to make coffee. Either that or you use enough coffee so you can't see the mud. But I am used to clear water rivers for canoeing, so I carried drinking water with me.



Little Missouri River, North Dakota, Photo by Ed Bry

So far as I know the river is not polluted. The heavy sediment load is a natural condition resulting from the multitude of clay bluffs, fineness of the clay, and the thunderstorm pattern of rainfall.

About noon each day little green flecks of floating algae became conspicuous in the water. Apparently the algae responded to the sunlight and increasing water temperature by making rapid growth. At times during the afternoon, ripples would be colored with green foam.

The opaque water made it impossible for me to find the channel by water color. Evidently the canoe was no more visible to aquatic life, for once I hit a fish with a paddle stroke. Except for low water level the river presented no serious canoeing problems. The river was always wide and never obstructed by debris. Rocks sometimes lay in the channel beside bluffs, but they could be easily avoided.

In such open country wind could be a problem for a canoeist. A few times I

resorted to poling in order to make headway against a moderate wind.

Half a mile upstream from the south unit of Teddy Roosevelt National Park I saw some auto bodies rusting in the river, and the three day mood of wildness was broken.

The seven miles through the park was disappointing. Highway traffic noise accompanied me for three miles, and none of the scenery within the park measured up to what I had seen during the preceding 55 miles. Just at the point where my trip ended at the north end of the park, the landscape seemed to be getting good again. It's too bad this easily accessible short trip is not a good sample of what can be seen on the more remote sections of the river.

A 280 Mile Wild River Trip

I believe a canoe could be put in at least as far upstream as Marmarth, North Dakota, and a trip could continue for

several weeks. Approximate river distances between major highways are: Marmarth to Medora 125 miles, Medora to the north unit of Teddy Roosevelt National Park 115 miles. There is probably another 40 miles of river downstream from the north park unit. The last 50 miles of the Little Missouri is impounded by the Garrison Reservoir on the Missouri River.

There is a total of 280 miles of free flowing river through a beautiful wild landscape that is essentially unchanged from its primitive condition. The Little Missouri ought to be one of our Wild Rivers.

I suppose some people might feel that a river ought to have water in it to be considered worthy of preservation as a wild river. But canoeing is only one way to see a river valley. The Little Missouri valley could be enjoyed on foot or horseback at times when the water level was too low for canoeing.

In most years there is probably dependable water for canoeing on the river in May and early June. At any time during the summer one might be lucky enough to catch a rise following a thunderstorm.

The first white man to canoe the Little Missouri was Jean Baptiste LePage who descended the river in 1804 and joined the Lewis and Clark Expedition at Fort Mandan. How many people have floated the river since is impossible to estimate. Everyone I talked to in the region had either floated the river or planned to someday because they had heard it was so beautiful.

When I was leaving, I drove into a gas station and saw a car with three girls in it, and a huge inner tube on top. The girls were trying to borrow a paddle. There had been a thunderstorm upstream, and they intended to ride down the river with a platform on top of the inner tube. They wanted at least one paddle so they could steer a bit. They had done this before so it was not an impractical scheme. The river had seemed too slow for rafting when I was on it, but apparently it was going to move much faster with the rise.

Sources of information for planning float trips on the river are the Park Headquarters in Medora, and a National Forest Service office in Medora. Much of the badlands is owned by the Forest Service and administered as a National Grasslands. They have put a few signs up along back roads, but to reach the river via these roads you should ask directions from residents.

Contour maps of the region are: Watford City, Dickinson, U. S. Series of Topographic Maps, Scale 1:250,000.

Burning Coal and Columnar Junipers

I began by mentioning the burning coal veins in the North Dakota Badlands, and these are such a unique feature I would like to finish by saying a bit more about them.

At a point about 4 miles east of the Little Missouri where the river is about to flow north out of Slope County is a spot called "The Columnar Junipers" or "Columnar Cedars". On the U. S. Geological Survey contour map (Dickinson), this spot is marked as a "Burning Coal Mine" although there has never been a mine there.

The Columnar Junipers is owned by



COLUMNAR JUNIPERS, NORTH DAKOTA

the Forest Service and a minimum amount of development has been made—a campground (no water) and a privy.

A friend who was studying the columnar junipers for a Masters Degree at the University of North Dakota took me to see the trees about 5:00 P.M. one evening. He had put me off until this time of day so that the west facing slope would be lit by the setting sun. It is a strange and sublime place.

The junipers growing on the slope look like trees that have been trimmed to a compact, spire-like shape. The normal shape for wild junipers is rather scraggly and squat. Biologists thought that these junipers might be a distinct variety that grew only in this one place in the North Dakota Badlands. But since settlement, local residents have occasionally transplanted some of these trees, and when they are no longer growing in this particular spot their shape becomes wide and scraggly.

My friend made a variety of measurements and chemical tests, all of which indicate that the columnar trees are genetically identical to the normally shaped junipers in the region of the species *Juniperus scopulorum*, or Rocky Mountain Red Cedar.

His suspicion is that the coal vein burning nearby has in some way caused the junipers to grow their columnar shapes, perhaps through influence of sulfur dioxide fumes produced by the burning coal.

This is the coal vein that has been burning underground since at least 1880, and for some indefinite time before then. The progress of the subterranean fire can be traced at the surface by the lines of cracked and slumped earth and burned out vegetation.

We stood by the burning coal vein inhaling the fumes and watching shimmering heat waves in the air above the crevices. Heat from the underground fire warms the surface soil enough to keep grass growing throughout sub-zero winter air temperatures.

We walked to a stone ledge where we could look at a fine arrangement of thin trees with long shadows reaching up the slope and pointing toward a small, dome-shaped butte. Someone had once climbed the butte and placed a cross on it. A man who appreciated nature better shot the cross off the butte with a rifle. A natural temple needs no man-made object to remind you of who made the temple.

WHITE WATER RACING REPORT

by Jay Evans, A.C.A.
National Slalom Chairman

1966 has been a busy year in white water racing. A number of new and interesting developments have taken place in the sport. Apart from the solid growth in the number of races held and the variety of activities, I agree with the *Christian Science Monitor* which said, "White water racing is one of America's fastest growing great new sports."

First of all, the National Slalom Committee of the American Canoe Association has adopted several new guidelines to help promote the sport. We now have a systematized Rotation Plan for all National Slalom and Wildwater Championships guaranteeing that the three sections of the country where white water racing is most active (East, Rocky Mt. and Pacific Coast Divisions) will be able to hold a National Championship at least two years out of every three. This system will suffice until the American Canoe Association becomes affluent enough to send all the top-flight competitors to a series of races which would then determine a National Champion. I know in other sports, such as skiing, competitors receive a travel stipend making it possible for them to attend races that otherwise would be beyond their pocketbooks. Perhaps this is something we should work toward in addition to raising money to send a U.S. Team to Europe every two years.

Secondly, I am pleased to report that the National Slalom Committee has approved a United States Team Selection Method which has been in effect since late last spring. The pinnacle of achievement in some sports is the opportunity to represent one's country at the Olympic Games. In white water racing the epitome of success is to take part in the World White Water Championships which are held in Europe in alternate years. This is a never-to-be-forgotten experience, and already, we have 20-30 young people in various parts of the United States vigorously engaged in training extensively with this goal in mind. In June, we held a very successful white water training



Larry Scott of the Ontario Canoe Club—
Jamaica Nationals, May 1966
Pictures by Al Beletz

clinic for the K-1 and C-1 classes, and those interested in trying out for the 1967 U.S. Team started last October 1 on a comprehensive physical training program which will carry through the winter months until March 15 in order to bring them up to international standards of competition. Some members of this squad are doing as many as 1,500 push ups per week.

On the local level there have been many encouraging developments as well. The National Slalom Committee has drawn up an Official Gate Judges' Examination which is available from any of the divisional chairmen. This is an attempt to standardize gate judging throughout the country, and, so far, has met with considerable success. The examination can be administered by any divisional chairman or race organizer who then submits to the National Chairman the names of gate judges to be "certified". Each gate judge will then receive an official, personalized gate judge's pin.

According to the reports received at the office of the National Slalom Chairman there has been a steady, if not spectacular, increase in interest in white water sport during 1966. A total of 21 races were reported from the four Eastern Divisions this year alone. Only one race was cancelled—the Brandywine—owing to insufficient water levels. New races included the Penn State Pool Slalom in January, the New England Slalom on the West River in April, and the "Hairy" Bellefonte Slalom in late October. Three new wildwater races were held—one on the Mascoma in April, another on the Yough in May, and the third on the West River in September. Pretty soon there won't be enough weekends to go around. Actually, one of the salient features of racing in 1966 is the gradual expansion of the racing season from what used to be limited to a few spring weekends to the entire summer and well into the fall. For the first time in white water racing history in this country there were more races held *after* the Nationals at Jamaica than there were before.

At the moment the National Slalom Committee is working on two final tasks which must be completed by the end of 1966. First, the new U.S. Team Selection Method calls for official rankings of



John Sweet, Penn State, Gate 16, Jamaica Nationals

racers in both white water and slalom for 1966. These seedings are now being compiled by the committee and should be ready for publication soon. In this way those competing for a place on the team will have a good idea of their position relative to other racers as of the end of 1966.

Secondly, strong efforts are being made to draw up the 1967 racing schedule so it will be available by December 1. The schedule will be distributed and publicized as soon as it is ready. This will include all known races throughout the country including Canadian competitions and the major European races.

Other sections of the country are showing an increase in interest in all phases of white water racing. A race was held in Kentucky during the summer, a couple of

races were held in Missouri as well as in Wisconsin. Four major races were held in Colorado, and the National Slalom Championships were held this year in California. Several other races were also held on the Pacific Coast. In all, it has been an encouraging year and one that indicates a strong future for white water enthusiasts everywhere.

Appointments: It gives me great pleasure to announce that the following men have accepted the appointments listed below:

Bart Hawthaway: *Chairman of fund raising for the 1967 U.S. Team.* Guy Newhall: *Chairman of the National Kayak and Canoe Slalom Championships to be held on the West River, in Jamaica, Vermont, May 13-14, 1967.* Tom Southworth: *Captain of the 1967 U.S. White-water Team.*

A Few Western Rivers

By Jim McAlister

If any readers of the AWA Journal like rivers where a canoeist can cruise from thirty to sixty miles without portaging or dragging the craft over a shoal, where the gravel bars are clean and white with abundant driftwood for your campfire, attend:

This is not a guide to any river. You will not learn from me what is around the next bend or what that roar you hear may portend. I would not rob you of your pleasure. These rivers are not difficult; Oz Hawksley runs the hairy creeks. However, Oz has more talent and courage than the average canoeist. If your correspondent runs a river you may be assured it is safe enough to take your Aunt Hattie for a Sunday afternoon cruise.

Incidentally, since Ruby and I discovered that the rivers in the Ozark Escarpment are navigable, Grumman is buying more aluminium. Last spring on a club float limited to experts there were fifteen capsizings (dumps) for thirteen canoes the first day. Dean Norman has canoed the entire fifty miles of this Mulberry River by himself.

Let us start with the Snake River in Wyoming because it is famous. Although professional outfitters run trips down it with rubber rafts all during the tourist season, you will probably not see another canoeist and will have your choice of fine camp sites on clean gravel bars or in aspen groves with plenty of firewood. The River and scenery are of course magnificent. Do not be fooled by the slow start below Jackson Lake. This river runs along easy and smooth for the first twelve miles to let one enjoy the view before it starts down hill. From here on for the next fifty miles it divides and redivides while picking up considerable speed. The drop is about twenty feet a mile minimum to start. The drop increases with the distance from the Lake. It took us a mile to stop for an afternoon coffee break. I have been lucky in picking the main channels; they all look alike, as the side channels sometimes end in a beaver pond or a log jam and I told you

"no portages." The main channel has rocks in it which adds to the beauty of the river by giving the canoeist the illusion of running rapids. Some of the whirlpools in the Snake will and have sucked down short canoes so it is more comfortable to either use a long canoe or skirt the whirlpools. We have seen this river only during September and October. The Park Rangers told us that from June to Labor Day the Snake was approximately three to four feet higher which smoothed out the whitewater and would of course cover many of the gravel bars. We favor September with the aspens flaming against the dark green of the spruce. The Tetons are always lovely which is, perhaps, why they were named Tetons by Pierre.

The channels come together a few miles south of Wilson where the river enters a winding canyon and appears to slow down because of the increased volume. Here are actually some pools and a choice of passages around the rocks. A nice take out is at Hoback Junction. Below Hoback Junction is the Grand Canyon of the Snake. The canyon is quite scenic from the highway. Ruby and

I prefer to see it from the highway. Access points are below Jackson Lake, Buffalo Meadows, back of Park Headquarters at Moose and at Wilson on the Highway to Teton Pass west of Jackson.

The Green River in Wyoming offers some sixty miles of canoe cruising water from the bridge west of Cora, above Pine-dale, to a good takeout five miles below Big Piney. The first dozen miles below Cora are slow and easy through sagebrush covered glacial deposits. Be patient, paddle, fish and look for antelope, elk and sage hens. About three miles above Warren bridge the hills close in and from here to a half mile below the bridge the Green is full of rocks. Below this long rapids the river winds swiftly through a flat valley of irrigated hay fields although the banks are protected by a dense wall of willows and cottonwoods assuring privacy. Hazards exist on this section in the form of cutbanks, down trees, divided channels and *Barbed Wire*. One cleverly contrived trap was a strand of barbed wire stretched two feet above the water in dark shadow under the Daniel highway bridge where a log jam formed a swift deep chute to throw the unwary against the wire. As canoes are all but unknown on the Green, this trap was evidently designed to decapitate sportsmen in rubber rafts. The alternate channel is slow and difficult but *safe*. Take the right above Daniel bridge.



A Western Wyoming River



GALLATIN RIVER, WESTERN MONTANA

The Green seemed larger at Daniel than some twenty miles down stream above the junction with the New Fork River. The New Fork doubles it, as of October, 1965, which makes it too damn big. Remember this is the "Gawd how the wind blew" country so any place open enough to give the breeze a straight shot is going to make problems. A few miles below the junction are some quite scenic red rock bluffs; these are approximately one half mile above the take out bridge. The bridge is five miles below Big Piney where you probably got your driver.

The shortest route from the Green to the Snake River is through Hoback Canyon. The Hoback River scampers or falls down Hoback Canyon to the Snake. It is a wildly beautiful stream and Oz Hawksley has run it. I would have tried the Hoback but I was scared.

The Big Hole runs into the Jefferson, the Jefferson runs into the Missouri.

Some years back one could have put in on the Big Hole and taken out at New Orleans. However, there would have been little point in it because Montana is a delightful place with miles of all kinds of canoe water. People in Montana value water highly; their friendly taverns are open every day so citizens will not drink it all.

The Big Hole is what one might call an amusing river. Certainly it is not boring. However, the actual Big Hole, drained by the Big Hole River is not my dish of tea as it is one huge hay field with the mountains too far on either side to be scenic. The canyon dropping out of the Hole is steep and fast enough for anyone but there are two dams, one of which makes a ten foot fall with no place to portage. We never portage in the Ozarks either. An excellent put in is at or above the village of Melrose. This would provide a cruise of approximately one hundred miles to the Junction at

Three Forks where the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin combine to form the Missouri. There is also a put in at the silver mine up in the canyon above Melrose beside the sign which advises one and all to keep the hell off the bridge and to look out for rattlesnakes. A rapids below this has some sharp rocks in it.

These rivers are clean except for a few cans around access points because the only people who float them are fishermen in rubber rafts. The rafts I saw used on the Big Hole were well patched. Sportsmen talked of blowing out their boats in tight spots and of fishermen committing suicide by wearing rubber waders while floating. As the river drops about twenty feet a mile, is crooked, has log jams, blocked channels and snags, they have a point. The point is what punctures the rubber rafts.

The Big Hole flows through cottonwood, cherry birch and willow, has impressive red stone bluffs and some

canyons. It is supposed to be one of the best trout fishing streams in these United States. I disagree. Of course the Bureau of Reclamation is trying to dam it.

At the town of Twin Bridges, Montana, the Beaverhead and Ruby Rivers join the Big Hole to form the Jefferson River. My admiration for both Thomas Jefferson and his river tend to get out of bounds. The River is big enough to be magnificent and not too big. It is fast enough in places for long sparkling riffles and has pools that move so one may float along enjoying the scenery which is made up of grasslands, forest, canyons, cliffs, white gravel and blue water. One of the most beautiful camp sites I ever saw is on the Jefferson and I have inhaled considerable wood smoke. Just below this camp is a sticky whirlpool that caught us unawares because there had been no rapids for the last fifteen miles. Do not worry about this whirlpool. A tough one comes after the rapids below this chute. The Jefferson is not dull unless one is a whitewater fiend in which case he should be running the Upper Madison and Gallatin.

NO BITING BUGS

The entire Ozarks are infested with ticks and they prowl after blood from March to October. We encountered no carnivorous insects or arachnid in Wyoming or Montana during September or October even when the flowers were blooming. In fact the only bugs we saw were a few yellowjackets, grasshoppers and hatches of blue uprights near size sixteen. As trout are fond of blue uprights both wet and or dry and the Montana State liquor stores stock excellent white wines, dinner can be delightful.

According to Field and Stream the best float on the upper Missouri is from Toston to Townsend for the large trout. This is supposed to take two days and I agree. We ran it empty against a gale in six hours, catching of course, no trout and missing the fun of camping. Our impression was, too big and unprotected.

The Gallatin is small enough to afford protection from the wind, is much easier to wade than the Big Hole and has water ranging from class two up to five. As the class is subject to change without notice, I approach it with caution. For us the Gallatin canyon is useful only for



SPLIT ROCK ON THE JEFFERSON, MONTANA

scenery and to pour water into the lower river. This part has enough problems for anybody of my far floating kidney, better fishing and it gets away from the highway. Because the hills are higher than they were ten years ago the rapids are getting wilder.

This is all for now. Anyone who thinks I am about to write up our favorite trout stream is out of his bloody mind.

Update on Western Rivers

Western Rivers was written on the basis of data gathered by canoe during fall trips in 1963, '64 and '65. In 1966 we collected more information as follows:

Local law interpretation in Wyoming and perhaps Montana does not allow camping without permission on the river bank where the stream runs through private land. We had no trouble getting permission in either state. Wyoming and Montana fish and game departments are buying many access points, most of which are also good camp sites. The Forest Service maintains many fine camp sites which are deserted and free in the fall.

We found the Snake River navigable for open canoes 10 miles below Hoback

Junction to the take out at Elbow Campground. Below the Elbow it becomes quite narrow with steep or sheer rock sides and for the next 15 miles to Alpine Junction looks dangerous from the banks. We would like a report from anyone who has run this section.

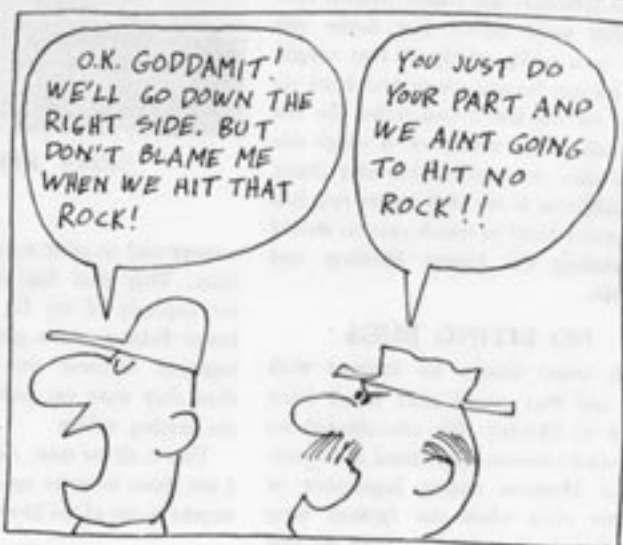
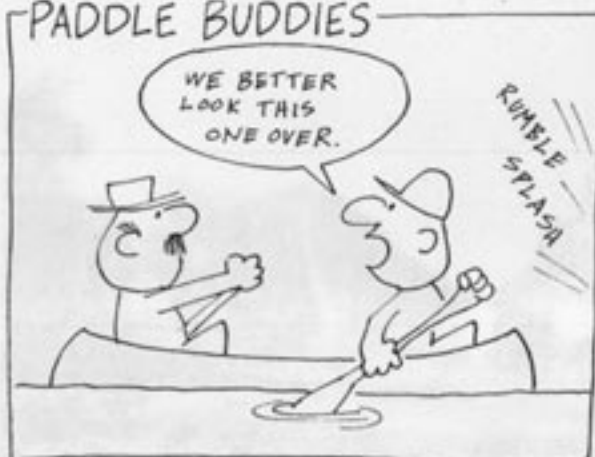
Topo maps can fool one on the Snake. According to the maps it drops less than 10 feet a mile in the canyon. The biggest drop is the seven miles above Moose where it drops 300 feet. The canyon is turbulent. We believe even an expert should look it over carefully.

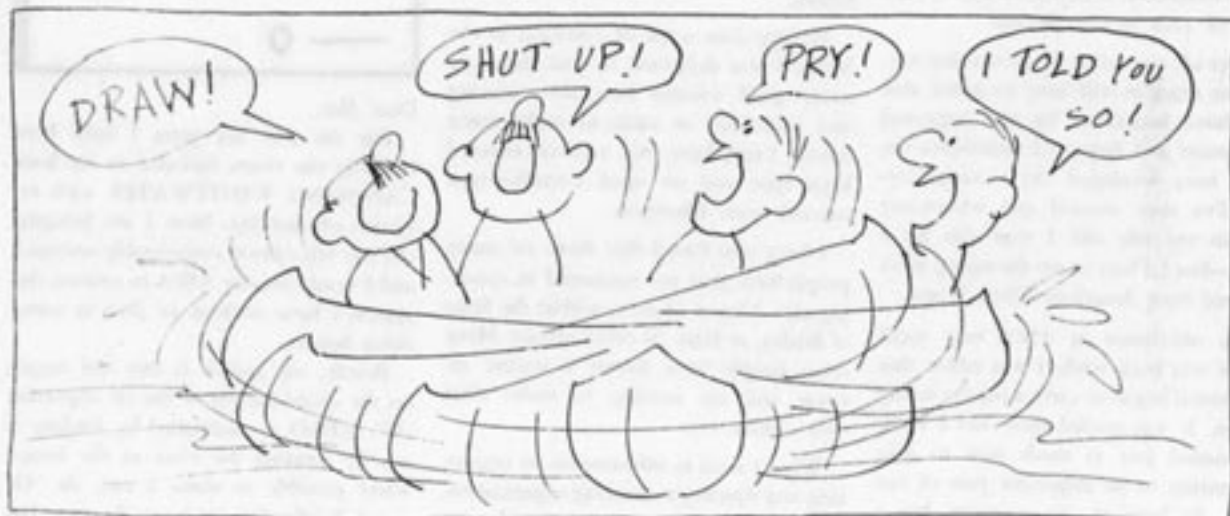
Jim McAlister

"Every four years we find that our state is on the brink of disaster, because many candidates say so. In the years between it turns out they were somewhat in error. I would like to repeat what I have been saying for years. Sometime Wyoming is going to find out that one of its greatest assets is space without people in it. It is just possible we have reached that spot and do not know it." Jack Gage, Former Governor of Wyoming.

From Wyoming State Tribune and Wyoming Wildlife, Nov., 1966.

PADDLE BUDDIES



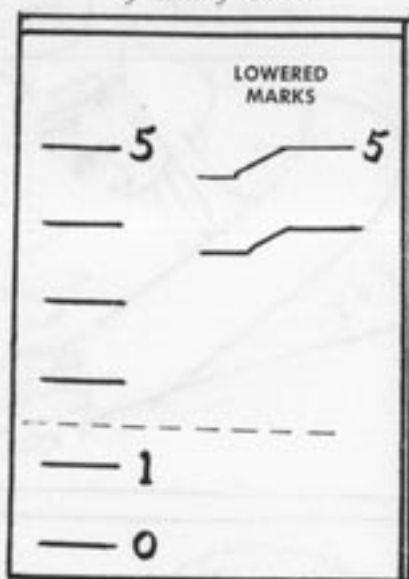


LETTERS
TO
AMERICAN
WHITE WATER



RIVER MARKER SYSTEM

by Randy Carter



Dear Jim:

I'm somewhat baffled by all this controversy about racing news in AWW. I don't see any justification for either the racers or the cruisers considering the sport—or the magazine—exclusively theirs. As long as we have both whitewater racing AND whitewater cruising we should have some of each in our journal.

After all, the racers do go cruising too; and the cruisers will have to admit that they have benefitted by the improved equipment and improved techniques the racers have developed. I'm a cruiser myself—I've only entered one whitewater race in my life and I won that by a fluke—but I'd hate to see the racing news dropped from American White Water.

The old-timers in AWA may recall that it was back while I was editor that the journal began to carry a regular racing section. It was needed then, and I think it's needed just as much now to give recognition to an important part of our sport. As long as the magazine has a balanced content including racing, cruising, exploration, equipment, techniques and conservation, I can't see where anybody has cause for complaint.

My experience has been that whether an editor is doing his job for a living or performing a labor of love as the editor of AWW does, everybody wants to tell the editor how to do his job. In the final analysis, though, you just have to weigh the various conflicting recommendations and rely on your own good judgment.

Good luck.

Martin Vanderveen
P. O. Box 176
Glenwood Springs, Colo. 81601

Harold G. Kiehm
Membership Chairman, AWA
2019 W. Addison St.
Chicago, Illinois 60618

Dear Sirs:

I am a Peace Corps Volunteer serving in (*) as a teacher in a Secondary School.

Having done a lot of canoeing in the States, I was delighted to find there are many good streams here for canoeing and proceeded at once to make some canoes. I now have two; a canvas covered kayak-type and an open Canadian-type covered with fiberglass.

I have also found that there are many people here that are interested in canoeing also. I know of now, within the State of Keday, at least 20 other canoes. Many other people have shown a sincere interest and are starting to make their own canoes, too.

What I need is information on organizing and running a canoeing organization, and would appreciate any pamphlets or material that would help me in this. We would also greatly appreciate some issues of 'AMERICAN WHITE WATER' which would be widely read, giving them here an idea of canoeing in the United States and what it can be here. Please send what you can to:

Scott W. Schulte
c/o Sekolah Menengah Bakar Arang
Sungei Patani, Kedah
(*) Federation of Malaysia

(Deacon' thinks it is newsworthy when AWA gets a letter like this. We agree. He has sent Journals and advice on organizing a Club. We look forward to this far-off inquiry's resulting in a new Affiliate for AWA.)

Dear Jim:

For the past ten years I have been marking the rivers included in my book CANOEING WHITEWATER with my system of marking. Now I am bringing out the 5th edition considerably enlarged, and I would like for AWA to endorse this system I have evolved, or give us something better.

Briefly, my system is this and hinges on the establishment of the all important "O": ZERO is established by finding it out by running the river in the lowest water possible to make a run. At "O" water height the river can be run, but some dragging over shallows and ledges will be necessary, and the trip is just a little more trouble than it is worth, but you can make it by including a little biking with your canoeing. This is speaking of expert canoeists in aluminum canoes.

Once "O" is determined the marker is painted on a bridge, post, rock, or other prominent, easily seen location. Above "O" are marks one foot apart, usually using the "1" and the "5" to avoid too many numbers, and excessive marking of the Highway Bridge.

The numbers and marks are made large enough to be read from the highway, but no larger than necessary, of bright yellow paint neatly done. (Enamel is best since it stays cleaner and brighter longer.)

In the diagram the dotted line represents the water height. This would mean a reading of 1 1/2 ft., or, in other words, 1 1/2 feet of usable water in the shallow, more difficult areas of the river.

What this system does by its markers is give the number of usable feet of water in the river.

My book has markers on all the white water rivers of Virginia, Northern West Virginia, the Great Smoky Mountain area of North Carolina, etc. It gives the telephone numbers of people or government agencies operating river gauging stations in the vicinity of the markers so that one may call up and find out the water height before starting out. (Often saving a long drive to find a river too low to run, or dangerously high.)

This system is now used by all canoe clubs in the Eastern part of the country from the Carolinas on up into New England, but I would like to have AWA give it their blessing if they see fit, and if not give us something better.

Note on the diagram the method of changing a marker due to changes in the river channel depth—extending the mark up or down.

Hoping you can give a little help on this,

Sincerely,
Virginia Canoe Association
Randy Carter
158 Winchester Street
Warrenton, Virginia

(We believe that this system should be adopted as the standard AWA river marking system. Those opposed come up with a better idea immediately so that Randy can publish his guidebook. What sells us on it is that it is so far as we know, the only tried, tested and workable system that has been offered our organization. Write directly to Randy to save time. JMcA.)

CANOEING COMPLETE

Edited by Brian Skilling of England.
First Published 1966. Covers white water, cruising, design, construction, competition etc. Send check for \$3.85 to: Jacqueline O'Brien, 3636 Oxford Blvd., Maplewood, Mo. 63143.



Glass Deck Bows in Place

Portage Thwart and Kneeling Thwart



16 foot Canadian, Decked. Put-in on Snake River
East of Teton Pass, October, 1966

Glass Deck Supports

Glass spray deck bows shown on a Canadian also fit a Grumman, Old Town, and probably will fit any canoe with thwarts. Pictures are of the bows used to support a deck for solo white water cruising with the 16' Canadian. This deck, as shown, is made of coated nylon with hemmed sides and is held under the gunwales with airplane cable slipped through the horns and made fast. It has proven effective as it sheds water like a duck and eliminates the *ponds* that form on the ordinary canoe deck. The bows are easily made on a piece of waxed board and are CMC construction. They are notched at each end so as to fit over the thwart and under the gunwale. The thwart back of

the front seat is supported on stainless steel brackets which allows the solo canoeist to ride comfortably on the seat through the easy water and drop to his knees with a good brace through the heavy stuff. The glass bows enable you to stick your nose into haystacks. J.F.McA.



AN EPISODE ON THE KAZAN

by Stewart Coffin

Last summer our party of four made a 640 mile trip down the Kazan River in the Barren Grounds of northern Canada. Although white-water sport was not our main purpose in choosing this route, we did expect numerous rapids, and hoped to run most of them. Our boats were an 18 foot Grumman shoe-keel, and a 17 foot fiberglass canoe which I made. The fiberglass canoe was equipped with a removable fabric deck. The river itself turned out to be ideally suited for cruising, with fast current and long, moderate rapids. We were able to run most of the sixty-odd rapids encountered, and only eight portages were required, totaling but two miles. Rather than make a long story of it, just one interesting morning will be described. For persons interested in more details, I have prepared a six page log describing every rapid and other feature on the trip.

To begin with, the roughest water we faced was not on the river but on the five large lakes. This was anticipated, and was the reason for taking the deck. On any long canoe trip, weather is an important factor, but especially so in the Barrens. All progress depends upon the strength and direction of the wind. The low marshy shores offer but slight shelter from the persistent wind. Swamping a canoe on any large lake can be serious, but even more so in the Barrens because of the low temperatures, and also the lack of firewood if one does reach shore. Our policy therefore was to not cross open water when whitecaps were showing or when the weather was unsettled. One instance when this rule was ignored is vividly recalled.

On this particular morning, after having experienced bad headwinds for several days, we found a fresh tailwind down a fifteen mile stretch of open water. Literally throwing all caution to the winds, we started off. Soon we found it advisable to put our deck on the stern and center sections, while leaving the bow section open, as the waves began building up in back of us. It is surprising how much extra speed can be obtained by timing one's paddle strokes, giving an extra

push just as a large wave lifts the stern, and riding the wave. Ordinarily we would have run closer to shore, but the shoreline was irregular, and every time we neared a point of land the water shoaled, and we would encounter rough breaking waves. So we headed about a quarter mile offshore in deep water. By this time, the waves were becoming impressive. My partner, who is not one to exaggerate, estimated sixty feet between crests, and I hesitate to state what we judged their height to be. Our efforts were now concentrated mostly on keeping the canoe pointed downwind, as the wind and waves supplied more than ample speed. I back-paddled in the stern as the larger crests passed, to slow us down. We were nearing another point of land, and were undecided whether to head out again or attempt to land.

During a momentary lapse on my part while pondering this choice, a particularly colossal wave crept up in back of us. The stern rose to an alarming height, and I back-paddled too late. In the next instant we were planing. My first reaction was one of disbelief—I never knew a fully loaded canoe to do that before. I shouted "slow down" to my partner, although just how we were to accomplish that I had no idea. I dared not use a rudder stroke in the stern to steer, for fear the effect would be too violent.

Instead we simply braced with our paddle tips skimming the surface. At the height of this hair-raising flight over the water, I wondered if all would end in a spectacular pearl. But our trusty canoe kept its nose up, and began its inevitable turn. We broached abruptly, although less violently than I had expected, and managed to regain some control. By chance, our broach happened to be in the direction of open water rather than dry land, thus resolving our earlier indecision. But now we were in shallow water, and wave after wave was breaking over us. While my partner struggled to attach the forward part of the deck, I periodically rolled the canoe over onto its beam and let the breaking waves smash against the bottom of the canoe, nearly throwing him out each time. But soon we had the deck on completely, and were under way again. We paddled back into deep water, and had no further

drama. The lake ended in a sheltered bay, so landing was no problem. We rejoined our friends in the 18 foot canoe. They had tried a course farther offshore than we, and had found it less rough. Nevertheless, it was an experiment which we decided not to repeat. One moral of this story is that you never know when white-water skills may come in useful.

CANOE ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE

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2. Timber Lake Trip, La Verendrye Park, Quebec, 108 miles, one week, 20 portages totaling 5 miles, rough country seldom traveled, no rapids. \$1.00
3. Coulonge River, Quebec, 150 miles, 16 portages—none over a mile, many rapids, all down-river except for a few small lakes. \$1.00
4. Riviere du Chef and Ashuapmushuan River, Quebec, 240 miles, 2 weeks, about 20 portages totaling 7 miles, big river with long, heavy rapids. \$1.00
5. Kazan River, N.W.T. 640 miles, 5 weeks, 8 portages totaling 2 miles, Barren Grounds after first week, fast water with many rapids, several large lakes. \$1.00
6. A.M.C. New England Canoeing Guide, 475 pages, covering all rivers in New England, pocket size. \$5.00

Stewart T. Coffin
Old Sudbury Rd., RFD 1, Lincoln, Mass. 01773

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McAlister

THE MEEK WILD GROWING PLANTS

By Curtis Finley

The meek wild growing plants passed on rivers, lakes, and on foot have a character of name that few of us shall ever equal by deed. Rattlesnake master, bastard rood flax, skull cap, mad dog, and old man of the earth are names to reckon with. And let us not forget the demure pussy toes, Butter-and-eggs, tick trefoil, johnny-jump-up, and wake robin complement our Ozark place names such as Lick Skillet, Pullright, Blue Eye, and Bug Scuffle.

Here are a few wild plants that you may see along the river banks and that you may wish to use for food.

The canoeist often travels in early spring or late fall to avoid the portable play pen and potato chip crowd. What can he find in the way of wild foods then?

The redbud is a tree of eerie beauty and great frequency. When in spring the buds are full, they may be rubbed off with no harm to the tree and eaten in salads along with watercress and wild onions. Oil and vinegar is the proper dressing. They have an astringency similar to wood sorrel which is also a fine salad herb. The red buds may also be fried in fritter form in one of those flour and egg messes that women love to make. We most prefer to nibble them from behind the ear of a winsome lass, however, and we feel that even commercial florists will concede that this is the real place to begin beautifying America with flowers.

In fall, acorns are one of the most interesting and nutritious wild foods. The Indians of California became the most pleasingly rotund of North Americans on a diet in which acorns were prominent. Legends tell that in the forests of Europe, before the Fall, men lived on acorns first sprouted by burying them. After the Fall, during the Civil War, they were roasted and used as a coffee substitute in the Confederacy. Hogs, unmindful of our problems, have dined on them for cons.

Normally acorns cannot be eaten out of hand because they contain tannin which makes them bitter. The tannin may be removed, however, and we consider this no more arduous or unnatural than removing the chaff from the wheat, the cob from the corn, or the poisonous leaves of the rhubarb from the stalk. Acorns of the white oaks are less bitter. Members of the white oak family may be distinguished by the rounded lobes and clefts, or sinuses, of their leaves and by their lighter, flakier bark. The black and red oaks have jagged, sharp lobes and clefts, shinier leaves, and generally a darker, more compact bark.

The acorn was prepared by the plump California Indian, and by ourselves, for food, by grinding or pounding the shelled kernel into a meal and then boiling it in several waters until the meal was sweet enough for one's taste. The meal was then made into a sort of stone-hard bread or a gruel with the interesting name, in some parts, of pooka-pooka—one of the few names which truly sounds like what it is, in this case boiling mush.

Also in fall the upright red clusters of staghorn sumac berries present themselves. They formed the basis of an Indian drink ages old. Stir some in plain water. The bloom of malic acid on them dissolves into a lemonade-like drink so delightful that the Indians saved these berries into the winter so that they might have it. Or, as Indians undoubtedly did too, roll some around in your mouth and then spit them out like a stream of machine gun bullets.

In late fall the arrowhead is often available in streams throughout the country. Its tubers may be cooked like potatoes, roasted or boiled. A variety of this plant is an accepted food in the Orient. The Indians used to take off their socks and feel for them with their toes. The tubers are often found at a distance from the leaf stalks. Beware of sudden yanking-out of these plants, for they grow in colonies and you may find that you have jerked out a sizable portion of the river bed.

In summer bergamot leaves may be used to make tea. This member of the mint family may be distinguished by lavender blossoms about the size of a

ping pong ball which look similar to red clover. Often a stem grows out of the center of a blossom and bears another blossom above it.

As you pass banks covered with the wild grape, which seems to offer so much but in truth gives so little, you may well plan to steal its prize by taking the leaves rather than the fruit with a mind to using them in that splendid near-eastern dish, the stuffed grape leaf.

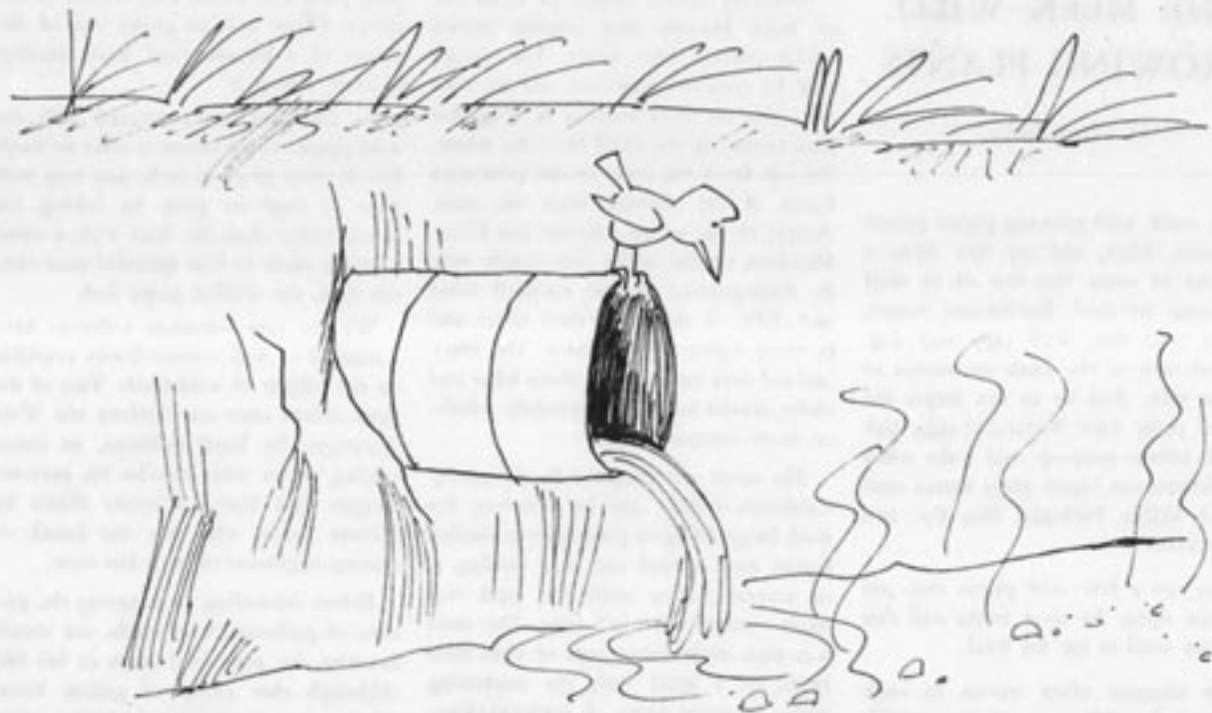
We are very fortunate today to have a number of well written books available on the subject of wild foods. Two of the more recent ones are *Stalking the Wild Asparagus* by Euell Gibbons, an entertaining writer who includes his personal recipes, and *Using Wayside Plants* by Nelson Coon, who has the knack of getting beginners off to a fast start.

Before discarding or accepting the pastime of gathering wild foods, one should examine the part food plays in his life. Although that group of gallant lovers who seem most at home in locker rooms will take boisterous exception, we submit that caring and laughing are the greatest pleasures of life. Most people reduce the delightful act of eating to a banality in keeping with the rest of their lives. Food is bolted as though eating were an onerous task best faced squarely and gotten over with a minimum of tomfoolery—a sort of reverse bowel movement. We seem to be a people who eat a lot for no real reason. True food hunger is a rare thing and is dispatched with ferocity when it appears, leaving blind and banal people who are full of food yet gatted by hungers, real and imagined.

The enjoyable sating of true hunger is a rare experience. We cannot describe it, but we know it is best accomplished in a simple frame of mind with simple foods. We think you are more likely to find this enchanting experience lying on a river bank picking the bugs off a piece of water cress than in a plush restaurant sneaking looks at yourself in a mirror.

BOATING EQUIPMENT

STEWART T. COFFIN
RFD 1, Old Sudbury Rd.
Lincoln, Mass. 01772



What Is Conservation?

by Duane Kelly

Conservation is an attitude.

Most people are familiar with many definitions of conservation: setting of the seasons, regulation of the kill, preservation, wise use of resources for the most good for the most people.

But the best definition in the world does nothing until it comes off the printed page and produces results, and as the population goes up minute by minute conservation becomes more urgent minute by minute. On a world basis, over two billion of the human population of 3.3 billion is underfed. But let's concentrate on conservation attitudes and problems in the United States of America.

We in America are asking for the impossible; we expect more people to live at a higher standard of living on less total resources. In our drive toward materialism we have developed an almost unbelievable ignorance of the natural world and its ways. Possibly the key to this attitude is our concept of possession of the land (or environment) rather than our being of the land (environment). In the early stages of settlement,

ignorance of consequences played a leading part in the deterioration of the environment due to excesses in cutting timber, plowing grassland, over-grazing and slaughter of wildlife. Later, end results became apparent but greed moved into the picture and exploitation became an accepted way of life. This acceptance of exploitation is apathy—one of the truly great obstacles to intelligent action. With the onslaught of industrialization, greed, exploitation and apathy all moved to advanced levels in the destruction of the environment. "Civilized" man compounded rather than solved or eased his conservation problems with industrialization. In our eternal chase after material wealth we have willingly given up quality for quantity, and again accelerated the destruction of the environment in a vicious circle of using more resources faster in order to supply a bigger market, pay higher wages, which will allow more material goods to be bought at a faster rate, ad infinitum. Thus greed feeds on itself. In this negative cycle the ignorant contribute unwittingly, the apathetic because it's easy and the greedy because they don't care and all in the name of the number one god in the history of the planet Earth: the American dollar. We can now see that the attitude of con-

servation is going into the face of an extremely complex and difficult situation—the ignorant, the apathetic and the greedy—each in his own way hell bent on the destruction of the environment. One understands more fully now why Ambrose Bierce defined idiot in his caustic Devil's Dictionary as: A member of a large and powerful tribe whose influence in human affairs has always been dominant and controlling.

But what do we do now? How do we take Conservation, the attitude, off the printed page and make it achieve results? 1. We must educate the next generation, but there is little conservation, as such, being taught in the secondary schools of today. We need an educational program in the schools. 2. We need to convert today's voters in the most urgent way because some issues will be decided before the next generation can cast their vote. It will do little good for AWA members to tell each other endlessly, "Something should be done to save our rivers," and drop the matter. We must convert our ignorant and apathetic friends as well as our greedy exploiters; we must encourage and support the passage of good legislation. 3. We must retain our good judgment and sense of humor—for the sake of our own sanity. 4. We must never

give up; we can rest only to gain more strength to come back harder; we must fight with a fanaticism far in excess of all the combined ignorance, apathy and greed fighting conservation.

When these things happen then conservation will no longer be merely a printed definition but an attitude.

Guest columnist Duane Kelly is a Biology instructor in Northeast High School, Kansas City, Missouri.

CONSERVATION

Opinions and Suggestions

From Jim McAlister

As Conservation Chairman of AWA for 1966 my March and June quarterly reports to the membership were published only by two affiliates—MRCC and KCCNY. We recommend that you read them even though you may have had access to these newsletters; then would you please patronize Field and Stream for October and November and read the articles in these issues pertaining to conservation.

We have discussed the problems of the abuse of Public Lands and the difficulties encountered by conservationists, with the Wyoming Fish and Game Department, among others. The Wyoming Fish and Game Department is working against great odds because the people in Wyoming have not followed the advice of Ted Trueblood—probably because the advice just came out. And, of course, nobody, except the members of the aforementioned affiliates have ever read your Chairman's conservation opinions.

The reason we are publishing these columns is because we feel that they should be part of the AWA Journal files and as editor we are now in a position to do so. They delineate AWA policy with regard to pending legislation which will undoubtedly be reintroduced when the 90th Congress convenes.

CONSERVATION COLUMN VOL. 1, NO. 1, 3 19 66

by Jim McAlister

My opinions are open to question, controversy and change in the light of new

knowledge. This column will be an attempt to correspond with the AWA membership. Correspondence means an exchange of ideas. Let us have yours.

The Wild Rivers Bill has priority. No matter what pressing needs an affiliate has, the primary concern of American Whitewater is rivers. As the existence of our organization depends on rivers we should ACT as if the existence of rivers depends on us.

Each conservation representative of an affiliate is assumed to have access to THE LIVING WILDERNESS, the journal of the Wilderness Society. Stewart Brandborg, the Society's Executive Director, is one of the most articulate and informed champions of a strong Wild Rivers Bill. I suggest that each affiliate obtain a copy of the Wild Rivers issue of the NATURALIST, the journal of the Natural History Society, 315 Medical Arts Bldg., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55402. This issue has the Craighead river classification system which some of us are pushing. The pictures are worth your dollar.

A weak bill such as the one passed by the Senate will give no more protection to our rivers than antipollution legislation has in the past. The forces that have destroyed most of our rivers are going to keep on trying to dam rivers with the dedication of termites. Unless we can get legislation through the House strong enough to protect wild, semi-wild and scenic rivers, white water boating will be confined to short runs below dams, while canoe cruising will exist bow-to-stern on a few rivers in Wisconsin and Missouri plus the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Saving the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and the Current-Jack's Fork National Scenic Riverway was not done by easy victories but by stubborn costly holding actions that are still engaged. Thermopylae got the publicity but the combined Athenian and Spartan forces were necessary to save our civilization. It will take every AWA affiliate plus the Wilderness Society, The Sierra Club and all of the other help we can muster to obtain a strong, comprehensive Wild Rivers Bill. An appraisal of the situation shows Senators from Idaho, Montana and Wisconsin in favor of a strong bill. We in Missouri have reason to hope that our

Senators favor a strong bill, but are less sanguine about our representatives in the House. The House is where we win or lose.

Some of you may remember how long it took to get the Wilderness Bill out of committee. The Wild Rivers Bill may well be interred in the same committee while every river in these United States is impounded, polluted and exploited. We should try to get our rivers protected by our state government agencies. However, we all love rivers in other states where we have representation only through congress. Many western congressmen regard every drop of water that flows in their state as the private property of their constituents, just as they believe every acre of public land belongs to their supporters to be fenced, grazed, logged, mined and protected against trespass. Until now they have made it stick. Remember, the bureaucrats are answerable to your representatives.

Your congressional Representative may be able to influence the members of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee if you are able to influence your Congressman.

The Committee consists of:

Wayne N. Aspinall—Colorado, Chairman, Alaska—Ralph J. Rivers; Arizona—Morris K. Udall, California—Harold T. Johnson, Phillip Burton, John V. Tunney, Craig Hosmer, Ed Reinecke; Florida—James A. Haley; Idaho—Compton I. White, Jr., George V. Hansen; Illinois—Charlotte T. Reid; Kansas—Joe Skubitz; Maryland—Rogers C. B. Morton; Nevada—Walter S. Baring; North Carolina—Roy A. Taylor, New York—Leo W. O'Brien, Hugh L. Carey, Jonathan B. Bingham, Henry P. Smith III; Ohio—Walter H. Moeller; Oklahoma—Ed Edmondson; Oregon—Wendell Wyatt; Pennsylvania—N. Neiman Craley, Jr., John P. Saylor; South Dakota—E. Y. Berry; Texas—Walter Rogers, Richard White; Utah—David S. King, Laurence J. Burton; Washington—Thomas S. Foley; Wisconsin—John A. Race; Wyoming—Teno Roncalio.

In Missouri the Governor has appointed a Wild Rivers Advisory Committee with an AWA member on it. Oz Hawksley of AWA and the OWWC Waterways Committee has completed a descriptive inventory of our best canoe

streams for this committee. Such an inventory or study describing the watersheds, ecology, rate of flow, seasonal use and accessibility or remoteness of your best streams would be something positive to give your representatives.

I suggest that each affiliate prepare such an inventory and send it to all of your representatives with your request for a strong Rivers Protective Bill. The AWA is supposed to know more about rivers than any other organization. By proving this we might exert a bit of influence. A well informed congressman is in a better position to represent his constituents.

All of you who want to keep informed about who, what, where and when in conservation will need CONSERVATION NEWS. Write to the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036 and ask to be put on the mailing list. It would be nice to mention your affiliation and make a donation.

Dan Bradley who handled this job so well so long, tells me I am speaking for all the members of all the Clubs affiliated with American Whitewater. I will have the gall to sound off on what I believe to be in the interests of our organization. However, you people must speak for yourselves if we would be heard. Otherwise to quote Leonidas, "Looks like We've had it."

Jim McAllister
Conservation Chairman

CONSERVATION COLUMN VOL. 1, NO. 2, 6 6 66

You have been asked to and we assume you have written your congressman. Do you know how he voted on the bill you asked him to support? How he stands on the proposal to dam your favorite river? Did you support him in the last election or vote the opposition because grandpappy was a federalist?

Since becoming involved in the struggle to save a few miles of running water I have been advised, begged, cajoled and commanded to write my congressman. If I had written him about everything that needs saving, his staff would probably discard my letters. Because I know that his secretary and staff have a considerable first hand knowledge of

rivers and of conservation, I send them information and a few respectful suggestions. My main concern is continuing to get the representation I get now. Therefore, I want my congressman to be re-elected.

Once during an election campaign a sportsman's organization obtained and circulated his voting record on matters concerning conservation. Because he had an excellent record, this may have helped him in the election.

How many of you have any idea where your local political organization stands on the conservation matters you consider important? How does the opposition party stand? Whose man is in office? If this sounds like a junior high class in civil government, answer this one. What can I do about it? As you know a congressman has influence in direct ratio to his tenure which depends on his political organization. Now use your slide rule and or computers to figure out who is going to influence legislation.

I believe we would accomplish more with active conservationists in politics. Politicians are necessary to handle our politics. For the last 2500 years of history with which I am familiar, it has been found that soldiers, business men and other VIP's have, without exception, completely fouled up any government which they have been able to control. Conservationists should acquaint themselves with what their representatives are doing and have done so that they can speak or write from knowledge. We have been effective in politics in Montana, Wisconsin and Missouri. In contrast, Arkansas expends its alleged conservation efforts in the extermination of the few remaining wolves and bobcats.

A value of involvement in politics is the chance to talk to people who will actually vote for or against your interests. For instance, you may give a slide show or address a group who will, at the time, express enthusiasm for saving your rivers. You may even get a few letters against the proposed dam on Tadpole Bayou. However, your congressman knows that these people will vote their same political prejudices next election without regard for his stand on dams. You may be sure that he is being pressured by those who expect to profit from dams.

The best way, or a way, to help him withstand this pressure is to provide a strong anti-dam contingent within his political party. Chances are the material is there waiting for leadership. Conservationists were active in Pennsylvania when I was there in 1925. New York's "Forever Wild" Adirondack Forest is a monument to involvement. Congressmen who have worked for the Wilderness and River protective Bills could do more with the active backing of conservationists. When a congressman works for the passage of a bill to protect our rivers and forests he should be able to expect the votes of those of us who love these things. If we then vote for his opponent we are voting against our interests, an old American custom.

A representative government represents the will of the people who have the ability, energy and means to influence the electorate. People will tend to vote their prejudices instead of their interests, even as you and I. We well know that the majority of our fellow citizens care not where they throw trash as long as it is out of a car window. Someone is going to influence the voters. Those interested in a quick profit are now working full time to pave, dam, pollute and destroy. I am surprised that we have men in public office who are willing to work for conservation in view of the way we are outnumbered. These men deserve our support where it counts. We can add to their numbers.

Chambers of Commerce have fought inclusion of certain rivers in River Protective legislation because they believe industrial wastes can be dumped into any accessible river regardless of anti-pollution laws. If we can convince enough voters that rivers should run clean our representatives will listen. It might even be possible to sway some chamber of commerce members with the idea that the sanctity of their homes, the purity of their daughters and more important, their credit rating does not entirely depend upon filling our rivers with industrial wastes. The idea that prosperity depends on pollution and dollars are multiplied by dams is a part of the conventional wisdom which should be re-examined. Business is now adopting new ideas, especially from engineers. These ideas are not nec-

essarily all from army engineers. The taxes used to destroy the Grand Canyon could build a lot of sewage disposal plants. The amount of money to be taken for the destruction of the Upper Missouri could help clean the lower section of the same river.

Summing up; find out what your State and National Representatives are doing about conservation. Find the local political organization that can help your interests and give a hand.

As Xenophon remarked, "This is not a walk in the park."

You may recall that when the Wild Rivers Bill was passed by the Senate, amid the cheers of the populace, some of us said it was no damn good.

Representative John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania has agreed in SPADES with his version of a River Protective Bill. National Scenic Rivers Bill, H. R. 14922 is actually designed to save our rivers. This bill not only covers protection from dams but from other forms of exploitation, gives the details of how it shall be done and appoints the responsibility for the care and protection of each river. H. R. 14922 provides for the classification of rivers and for upgrading of streams into higher classification as they are cleaned and rehabilitated.

The idea of anything except attrition of our resources is revolutionary. The bill even includes the Colorado River. Do not take my word for it. Obtain a copy of the bill and study it. H. R. 14922 is going to have powerful, even fanatic opposition.

Representative Saylor's introductory speech, Congressional Record — House, May 9, 1966, refers to the AWA as a leading Conservation Group. Not knowing what gave him that opinion, I suggest we make it so. Every Club affiliated with AWA has members with the talent, energy and ability to lead a local drive in support of this bill. This could be tied in with your state conservation efforts.

Any questions?

**UPPER GREEN RIVER
WESTERN WYOMING
MAY BE SAVED OR
DESTROYED —
IT IS OUR FIGHT**



ANNOUNCEMENT

623 W. College Ave.
State College, Penna. 16801
Telephone: 814-237-7727

Dear Member:

The WORLD CANOE SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS for 1967 will be held at Lipna and Spindleruv Mlyn, Czechoslovakia, on July 6-9 and 13-16.

The AWA is happy to announce it is sponsoring group jet flights from New York to help its members to be at this event. Round trip fare to Zürich or München (Munich) will be only \$365. European stays of 3, 4, and 8 weeks are anticipated.

For further information on this splendid travel arrangement correspond directly with me immediately.

Sincerely,
David A. Kurtz
AWA Travel Organizer

Constitution And By Laws of the American Whitewater Affiliation

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of this organization is the American White-Water Affiliation. The initials are AWA.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the American White-water Affiliation is to:

- encourage the exploration, enjoyment, and preservation of American recreational waterways for man-powered craft;
- protect the wilderness character of waterways through conservation of water, forests, parks, wildlife and related resources;
- promote safety and proficiency in all aspects of white-water activities such as the navigation of moving water, teaching, teamwork, leadership, and equipment design by publishing and demonstrating developments in these and related fields;
- promote appreciation for the recreational value of wilderness cruising and of white-water sports.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Opportunity for membership in this affiliation is open to all individuals interested in the recreational use of American waterways who will subscribe to the above purpose.

4. AFFILIATED CLUBS

All clubs which share the above purpose are invited to affiliate as member clubs. Professional boating organizations may also be accepted as affiliates.

5. GENERAL COMMITTEE

Each affiliated group will appoint or elect one AWA member to the General Committee. The membership of the Operating Committee and Advisory Committee will also be members of the General Committee, even if not already members as club representatives. The Executive Secretary will serve as Chairman of the General Committee. Functions of the General Committee will be primary responsibility for the formulation of Affiliation policies and election of the Executive Secretary and such other offices as becomes necessary.

6. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The advisory Committee will consist of seven members; the incumbent Executive Secretary,

the preceding four Executive Secretaries, and two members elected from the membership-at-large by the above mentioned five. One member shall represent the unaffiliated membership.

This Committee will consider the long range welfare of our sport and organization and will make recommendations to the General and Operating Committees.

7. OPERATING COMMITTEE AND SERVICE COMMITTEES

The Operating Committee will be composed of the Executive Secretary and the chairmen of the Service Committees and shall have the primary responsibility for execution of policies and administration of the Affiliation.

Committees to perform specific duties will have the Chairmen appointed by the Executive Secretary from the membership-at-large and will be known as Service Committees. An appointed Chairman may choose other members to serve with him on his Committee. Committee Chairmen should report to the Executive Secretary on a quarterly basis.

8. OFFICERS

The Executive Secretary will be elected by the General Committee from the membership-at-large. It will be his duty, with the help of the Operating Committee, to assign responsibilities and to coordinate all efforts toward attainment of the Purpose.

9. FINANCE

This affiliation will be a non-profit organization.

10. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote by a quorum of the General Committee. Proposed amendments must be presented to the membership-at-large at least one month previous to the time of voting.

BY-LAWS

1. MEMBERSHIP

Membership will be granted upon application accompanied by \$2.50 dues. Renewal dues are payable March 1. Members who have not paid renewal dues by June 1 will be dropped.

2. AFFILIATION

Bona fide boating clubs wishing to affiliate may do so by applying to the Executive Secretary and by paying \$5.00 annual dues. Affiliate clubs shall appoint an AWA member to the General Committee and may also request representation on a Service Committee of their choice. Affiliate dues are payable March 1.

3. ELECTIONS

Nominations for Executive Secretary shall be made in October by members of the Advisory Committee and be submitted to the Chairman of the General Committee. Election will take place in November.

Following this, the Executive-Secretary-elect and his four (4) immediate predecessors will elect the two remaining members of the Advisory Committee. The complete Incoming Advisory Committee will elect a chairman before December 31.

Should a vacancy occur on the Advisory Committee during the year, members of that Committee shall elect a replacement as soon as possible.

4. VOTING

All elections may be by letter ballot. Provisions for write-ins shall be made. Three-fourths of the members of the General Committee constitutes a quorum. Five members of the Operating Committee will be a quorum.

Six members of the Advisory Committee will be a quorum.

5. SERVICE COMMITTEES

The Chairmen of the Service Committees will be appointed in December from the membership-at-large by the newly elected Executive Secretary.

The Chairman of the Editorial Committee will be responsible for editing, publishing and circulating the official publication. The Managing Editor will serve as Chairman and appoint assistants, regional editors, advertising managers, and business managers as required. He will set policies for the publication, subject to the approval of the General Committee.

The Chairman of the Conservation Committee will be responsible for determining a conservation policy with the approval of the General Committee, for informing the members of conservation issues relating to our sport, for cooperating with other organizations toward the same goals, and for notifying proper officials of our stand on controversial issues.

The Chairman of the Safety Committee will be responsible for maintaining and disseminating an official Safety Code, for cooperating with public bodies in matters affecting safety, for collecting and disseminating information conducive to safety (including accident surveys), and for other matters relating to safety in our sport.

The Chairman of the Membership Committee will be responsible for building the membership of the Affiliation. He will keep the membership list, with changes of address, up-to-date at all times and furnish copies as needed to the Managing Editor, Operating Committee and others within the Affiliation who need the list. The membership list and the addresser of affiliated clubs should be published and sent out to the entire membership at least once a year.

The Chairman of the Guidebook Committee will be responsible for the maintenance of standard river difficulty classifications and of standard mapping conventions. He will be responsible for encouraging, advising and helping local groups in collecting, writing, publishing, and distributing of data on waterways.

Other committees may be established or dissolved as required to best fulfill the purpose of the Affiliation.

6. FISCAL AND ELECTORAL YEARS

The fiscal year for the budget, membership purposes, and affiliate dues will be from March 1 to February 28. The books are to be audited in April.

The electoral year for affiliate club representatives is also March 1 to February 28. The electoral year for all other officers, chairmen and committees will run from January 1 to December 31.

7. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-laws may be made by a majority vote of the General Committee. Proposed amendments must be presented to the membership-at-large at least one month previous to the vote.





--SAFETY AS WE SEE IT--

by John Bombay

The reports I received on white water mishaps *did not* say the following: "Steep gradient—fast water—Class V rapid—cold water — boater upset — boater drowned." Why? Because the good boater was truly experienced, he could roll up, he wore a wetsuit, and he was totally prepared in skill, stamina, and experience. He *did not* drown. In contrast, the sad stories related to me read as follows: "Little gradient—river in flood stage—cold water—no life jackets—driftwood piled in river—no experience—open canoes—six drowned, not AWA members."

The newspapers reported that the young people who drowned were all experienced canoeists because they had completed a Red Cross canoeing class in lake paddling! These young people went down the innocent looking, but powerfully flooding creek (there was no vast volume of water as on our big rivers) and met a

pile-up of driftwood in the outside of a bend. Not knowing how to steer in moving water and totally unprepared, they met fate.

It is very rewarding to us in the AWA that we have no mishaps to report on our own trips, even if we run the most tumultuous rivers in our country and elsewhere. The only reason that we keep our slate clean is that we prepare ourselves for our trips: we obtain and know how to use proper equipment; we train in the mastering of the necessary skills; and we come to know our rivers by exploration with supporting members.

How great the contrast to the small band of growing up youngsters who were thrilled by the thought of running the wicked stream, but they were totally unprepared.

Could we please attract the attention of local youth groups who are interested in our sport and offer them instruction in our noble sport? After all, are we not responsible for having publicized this previously little known sport which is so enticing to our adventurous youth? Not only will we save lives, but we also might enlist future members to our group, members who will help us fight for the preservation of our rivers as well. With the great increase in the popularity of our sport we need also to increase our efforts to improve the skills of all who explore our beautiful streams. It is of course impossible to make experts out of all these boaters, but we might at least

make an effort to alert those interested to the hazards especially present to the beginning and even the intermediate boater—the expert can change his mind and pull out if the going gets too rough—the beginner is at the mercy of the current. As in ballet, our great dancers appear to leap and turn with almost no effort; so is it with the expert who seemingly navigates the river's course with little effort as observed by the novice. One does not need to be an expert to safely run a river, but one must however be aware of his own capabilities and not trust in luck to get him through.

Let therefore each club assign one or two members to set up a training program to help any group requiring assistance. Selfishness does not behoove a real sportsman.

We are pleased to welcome the following new Affiliates to AWA:

Boy Scouts of America, Troop #708
Glenn Miller, Rep.
10138 Overcrest Street
Whittier, Calif. 90605

Coastal Canoeists
Bruce N. Walker, Rep.
862 Cascade Drive
Newport News, Virginia 23602

Explorer Post 757
Glen Johnson, Rep.
Box 840
Brooksville, Maryland 20729

Minnesota Canoe Assoc. Inc.
Joseph E. Conrad, Rep.
101 79th Ave. N.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55430

West Virginia Wild Water Assoc.
Idair Smookler, Rep.
2727 Daniels Ave.
South Charleston, W. Va. 25303





Another View of the Little Missouri River. Photo by Ed Bry.

OVER 50 MODELS OF CANOES AND KAYAKS
and accessory items

OLD TOWN

GRUMMAN

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HOME of the CANADIEN line of fiberglass canoes in 14', 16', 17' 3" and 18' 6" lengths and the famous replicas of the historic craft of the voyageurs, the 26' NORTH canoe and the 34' MONTREAL canoe.

NEW from our bookshelves of canoeing items: "Song of the Voyageurs", a record album of 12 songs with historical background, Mono and Stereo, "Large Canoe Shooting Rapids" and "Lake Superior", Two color prints of Francis Ann Hopkins famous paintings, 35" x 21" and 26" x 21".

THE CHICAGOLAND CANOE BASE

Ralph C. Frase
4019 N. Narragansett Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60634
Phone 312-777-1489

Canoe Rentals

Chicago area canoeing information