

More Adventures Aboard Canoe As Explorers Turn Homeward

In a fascinating diary of five days of high adventure on the Susquehanna, John Butler, Leader of St. Therese's Explorer Post relates the trials, tribulations and triumphs of his boys. The story which began last week is continued in this edition.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30
Arose at 7:00. Pioneer still leaked so we delayed to fix it. Started 8:10. Everything went along fine until 11:35. I remember the time because my watch finally stopped due to flooding conditions. Oh Yes! This time I am in the Ibox. We were rounding a curve to the right and we came upon a small rapid about 20 feet wide cutting to the left. Protruding out over and into the water was a tree. The tree protruded out about 10 feet. Three canoes made the curve and past the tree alright. The Nan-De-Car with Charles Glawe in the stern and John Butler, Jr., in the prow made it past the tree, then the current caught the canoe and pulled it back upstream. It then circled right into the path of the Ibox containing Tim, Matt and Mr. B. We were headed to strike them amidship on the starboard side. I was yelling for them to get out of the way but later I realized how silly it was because they were trying to avoid the same tree we were. I saw an opening about two feet wide along the shore and we tried to squeeze in there. When I came up from under the canoe I heard this awful tearing sound, I could only think that the canoe was being torn to shreds and if so where were the scouts. I first saw the Nan-De-Car bottom then I saw Tim hanging to a branch of the tree, legs fully extended from the force of the current, and Matt right behind me collecting anything that floated out of the canoe. Then I looked down stream to see where the others were. They had beached their canoes and were running as hard as they could to help us.

We finally pulled them ashore and emptied them out. I received a busted lip from trying to grab the tree, Ed lost \$11.00 and his wallet, which he had in his jeans, I guess he was going to try to trade with the natives. I lost a pair of shorts. One benefit derived was lost, I slipped my Disc lifting a box of food at Owego. I wasn't very comfortable. This set it back in place. I am very proud of our Explorers for their quick actions in the emergency. We swam and played in the rapids for about half an hour, and did we have fun.

Towanda 1:30. We trooped into town as we were except we wore hats for identification.

We stopped at Dave Lafy's Bar and Grill. I walked in and asked if we could be fed. We sure could and we were. Dave played a player piano for the boys and a phonograph with a cylinder type record.

After lunch the explorers asked if we could stay at Towanda. We met Dave again at the ACME. I asked him if he knew of a place to camp. He said to wait until he got his car and we would see some of his friends. He talked to a few, then we stopped at Wilsons, who said of course they would be glad to have us.

We rode back to Towanda and

picked up our groceries. We needed ice and Dave said we could have all we needed and he wouldn't take a cent. After we pitched our tents at Wilsons, we made our beds, then walked down to the river and had a bath. When we came up Mrs. Wilson had the hose ready and rinsed us off. Once again we hiked about a mile into town. Since Mr. Lafy had been so good we decided to patronize him, and had another lunch about a dollar apiece.

The picture, "South Pacific" was in the theatre. I had seen it so I walked to camp. I found we had been visited by some high winds, and later found out it was part of a tornado that had done a lot of damage six miles away. The tents were down and it started to rain. Just as I had the tents up and tight the rain stopped.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1
7:00 a.m. — They were tired and wanted to stay here for another day. We forgot to buy milk so I asked Mr. Wilson if they had any extra. They didn't but he said he would drive me into Wysock to buy it. We also bought some ice. Steve said to ask him if we could stay. Mr. Wilson laughed, because Mrs. Wilson had said they are tired and I'll bet they will want to stay over.

His car was dirty and Steve asked if they could wash it. He said that was a very nice gesture. So we washed and polished it. We paddled the canoes up river for a free ride in the rapids. Soon the canoes were being upset and we had another good time. After lunch all except John and I went to town, John was tired and I had blisters on both feet.

I started supper, we had two hams with seven pounds of potatoes and peas.

We went back to Towanda and it rained. We tried to call home, (someone called home every night to say where we were and o.k.) The pay phone wasn't working so I bumped it and we hit the jack-pot, 6 nickels came out. We tried to put them back but they kept coming out. We walked to another pay phone and told the operator what happened. She laughed and we put the nickles in that phone. We received a ride to Wysock. Two weird movies were in the drive-in. I had a root beer and walked about 2 miles when a Meredith Wilson picked me up. He was the son of our host. He said he was a pro. auctioneer, so I told him about the Dallas Auction. He had heard of it and came over to the block to say hello.

THURSDAY, JULY 2
We thanked the Wilsons, they said to make this our stop next year and we said we would.

On the river at 9:00. A couple hours later two canoes had moved out quite a way in front. Pat asked a fisherman in a motorboat for a tow, he surprised Pat and said yes. The three canoes hooked on, one on either side and one in back. He towed us about a mile

down river, we caught up with the other two at the Standing Stone. We swam for about one half hour. We were almost at Wyalusing when it started to pour rain. By now we had a system, the tents were put up, then we brought our packs up, made our beds, dressed and waited for the rain to stop. Allowed \$1.25 for a meal. Called home to tell my wife we would be in Laceyville about 1:00 p.m. Friday and we would pull out. Mr. Schmidt camping next to us drove two miles so we could get some water. Mr. and Mrs. Silic and Mrs. Hudak were up to see us. We sent everything we did not need back with them.

FRIDAY, JULY 3
Last breakfast. Last prayer at the water edge. Mr. B. riding in the Rockin Robin, because of being in every mishap, Steve and Bill said, "Oh! Not that please." We stopped once to let all the canoes catch up, then sent them on ahead. We soon passed them. Yes! It happened again. The Rock entered a rift with waves about 15 inches high and in came the water. We had to stop and bail out. Everyone passed us out and left the Rock far behind. The Rock with Steve and Bill and the Jinx Mr. B. wanted to come into Laceyville first. They put on the steam. Three paddles churning the water, passed the Pioneer, then the Ibox, then the Sha-Bar. The Nan-De-Car was way out front and didn't intend to be passed. The Rock closed the gap but was still 20 feet away when Mr. B. said pull in to shore. Both canoes strained for shore, Charles Glawe was about one half step and twenty feet ahead of Steve. Then the ribbing started. The great Rock was defeated.

Following the Rock, the Sha-Bar came in 3rd, Ibox 4th, Pioneer 5th, John Butler Jr., and Charles Glawe were in the Nan-De-Car, Bill Carroll, Steve and Mr. B. were in the Rock, Bob Wolensky and Dan Malloy in Sha-Bar, Eb Friar and Matt Gillis in the Ibox, Pat Malloy and Tim Carroll in the Pioneer. I walked across the river to the home of the Whipples. Mrs. Whipple said we could pull out on her lawn and could change our clothes in her basement. We all walked to the center of the bridge humming Taps, with our helmets held on our chests we threw our river shoes in the river. We ate in the restaurant across from Gavey's. We had \$13.01 left in our fund and our bill came to \$12.95. Our waitress was so confused with the multiple orders and re-orders that she had the bill figured wrong. The proprietor refigured it and said, "Just give me \$11.00 and forget it." The cars arrived and we started home ending trip number 8.

Mr. B.
Stephen E. Welitchko, fireman electrician's mate, USCG, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Welitchko, Route 3 Dallas, is serving aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Bering Strait.

Presently, Bering Strait is operating as a floating weather station, navigational checkpoint, and communications relay station for trans-Pacific aircraft in the North Pacific.

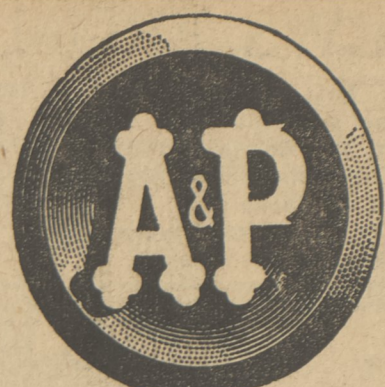
Welitchko Serving On Navy Weather Vessel

Stephen E. Welitchko, fireman electrician's mate, USCG, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Welitchko, Route 3 Dallas, is serving aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Bering Strait.

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