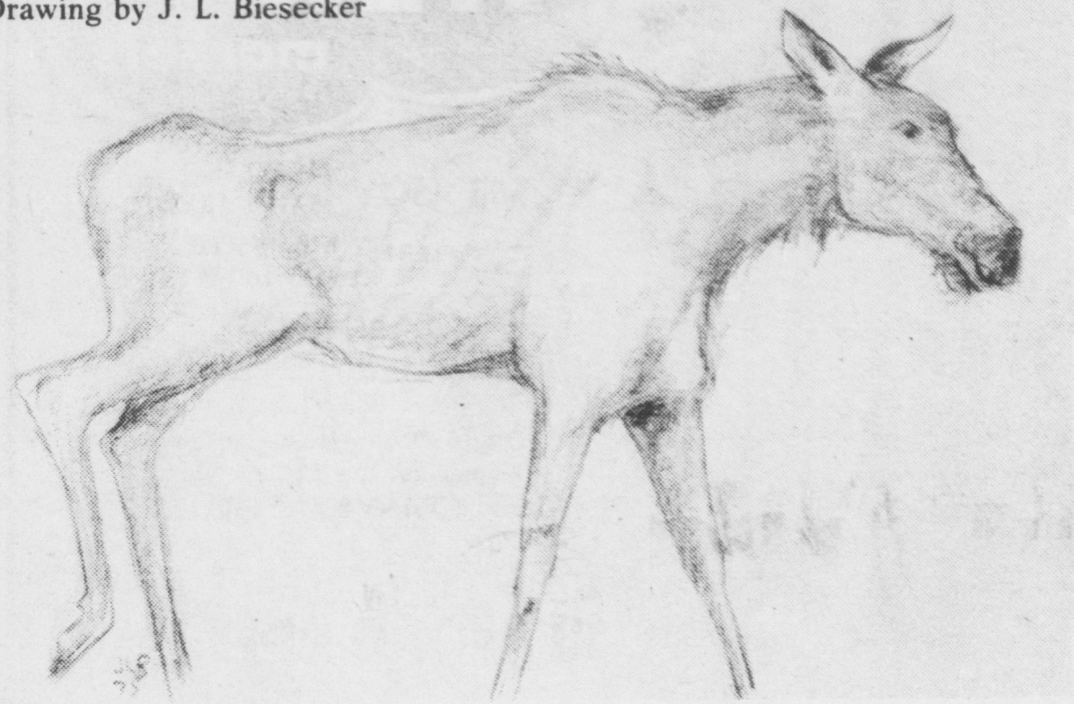


# Campers drink wilderness waters 'deeply, safely, and with wonder'

Drawing by J. L. Biesecker



by J. L. Biesecker

As the rain came pelting down, we crowded aboard the old yellow bus, and headed 700 miles north to adventure in the Canadian wilderness. There were 28 of us participating in the Wilderness Canoe trip of the Donegal Presbytery Summer Camping Program. Our destination was the Base Camp of Adventure Unlimited (AU), located at Lac Landron in the central part of the Province of Quebec. Six of the 28 were from the Donegal Presbyterian Church. These were Ellen Graham, Bonnie Bates, campers, and Rev. Robert Murphy, Ann Condrack,

Nancy Biesecker and John Biesecker, camp counselors for the trip. The remainder of the group came from other Lancaster and York County Presbyterian Churches.

Several hours of sightseeing in the beautiful city of Ottawa and a night of camping along the log filled Gatineau River were enjoyed and should have been welcome respites from the trip, but our anxiety to get into the wilderness made them only tolerable. Songs and innumerable bags of candy helped wile away the hours as we jostled along on the bus. Finally we left the small black-top road and bounced 35 miles back into the bush on a dirt logging

trail.

Suddenly the waiting was over and we were there, Lac Landron. As 22 eager adolescent campers and 6 frazzled adults poured out of the bus, we were met by Ridge, a veritable giant of a dog, and by Mr. Homer Hicks, owner of AU. In the next ten days we were to find out that Homer was even more of a giant than his dog.

We soon met Kris Lind, our guide. He, in turn, introduced us to our canoes and out GI Tropical Hammocks that were used in place of tents. We soon found that the hammocks were obviously designed by a devious mind. The little roof kept off the rain and the

netting kept out the hords of bugs, but these treacherous hammocks had the unique ability to spit a soundly sleeping body unceremoniously out on the ground at 3a.m. However, we came to love them as a cowboy loves a cantankerous, almost unridable mustang.

After a day of training in canoe handling and a swim test, we set off into the myriad of lakes and rivers that fill the Canadian Bush. Two to a canoe, with all of our food and gear, we paddled 25 miles per day. Up the Ottawa River across beautiful lakes stopping to portage around some rapids and shooting others. Nights were spent camping on the sandy beaches where the lakes met the birch and white cedar forests that endlessly covered the landscape.

Trail-food dinners were supplemented by succulent Walleyed and Northern Pike that we caught each afternoon. Most astounding about these lakes and rivers is the fact that they are safe to drink anywhere. Just dip in your cup and drink, deeply, safely, with wonder.

Many ducks were seen, ducks such as Canvas Back, Black ducks, Buffleheads, Merganser and others. Many more tracks were sighted on beaches, but only

one moose was actually seen. (A moose is not one of God's more graceful creatures.) A large Lynx visited Base Camp one night while we were on the trail. Bird life was abundant. An Osprey spent part of one morning watching us move through his territory and each evening a chorus of birds heralded the approach of dusk. The Red-Eyed Vireo dominated this evening concert with their beautiful song.

All of this may sound idealistic, and it was, but it is in danger. Canada is making the same mistakes that the United States made. Big business and people are thoughtlessly squeezing dollars from the wilderness and, in the process, destroying its fragile beauty.

Roads are being cut into the bush and along with roads come powerboats, cars, civilization and pollution. Indiscriminate moose seasons in which bull, cow and calf are fair game decimate the number and quality of the moose herd. Greedy overfishing has seriously hurt fishing in many areas.

Homer Hicks has devoted each summer since 1947 to

making available the opportunity to experience the wilderness. He has maintained the Wilderness Base Camp of Adventure Unlimited, enabling countless groups of young people to experience the opportunity to be alone together in the wilderness. We found his work to be a labor of love, not a money-making venture. This man, who loves and respects the wilderness, uses it, but doesn't exploit it. Instead, Homer shares it with others, hoping that his wilderness will survive, but seeing it attacked each year.

As I paddled my canoe each day, watching the wilderness slide by, many thoughts and questions crowded in. Was my native Susquehanna Valley once actually this wild, open and unpolluted? Will Canada learn from our mistakes, or is it too late for all of this? Rising at dawn one morning I heard the distant cry of a wolf. In the plaintive cry that met the beauty of the rising sun, I heard the sigh that foretold the sad truth. All of this will eventually be lost and Homer's wilderness will live only in the memories of those he carefully shared it with.

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### EXTENDED TROUT SEASON

Trout fishermen are being reminded by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission that this year, for the first time, they can look forward to an extended season on all approved trout waters starting September 2 and running to midnight, October 31. In recent years, fishing trout was legal during this period in some, but not all, of the lakes and streams stocked by the Commission.

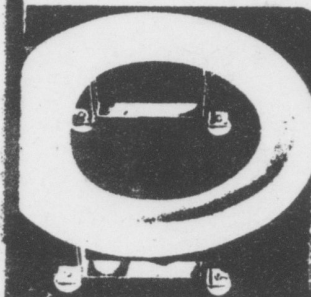
The Fish Commission spokesmen emphasize that the extended season applies only to those waters approved for stocking, as listed in the summary booklet issued with each fishing license starting on page 26. It does not apply to tributary streams or headwaters, including streams which contain native trout populations but which are not stocked.

### DID YOU HEAR

Robert Glattacker, 126 W. High St., Maytown, was twenty-four years old, Monday, August 4.

## From Our SURGICAL APPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

### BATHTUB SEAT



A very convenient device to be used as a stool by the invalid or elderly when they are taking a bath. Since the nucleus of this appliance is a white molded toilet seat with an open center, it is ideal for use when an attendant must administer a bath to a patient. Seat is adjustable in height from 6" to 9" at 1 in. intervals. Steel base is chrome plated.

**\$15<sup>95</sup>**

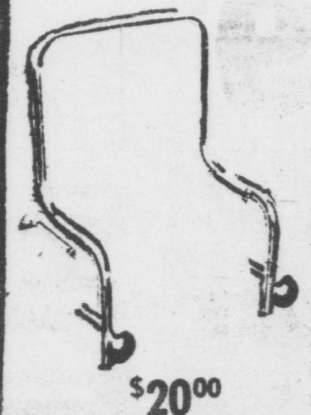
### ELEVATED TOILET SEAT

Another convenient device for the invalid or elderly who cannot sit down at the height of a standard toilet. Its four plastic tipped prongs fasten to the toilet bowl & keep the seat securely in place. Height of seat can be adjusted from 3" to 6" at 1" intervals. Has stainless steel splash protector in front.

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