

Woods and Waters ^{by} BOB BECKER

ANOTHER CANOE TRIP WITH FISHING ON THE SIDE.

WHEN you stop to figure out the popularity of canoeing you realize that this sport is really one that has been sort of "bred in the race." It formerly was the only means of travel and communication here in the middle west and in the days of the French explorers the canoe was worth its weight in gold.

Many a river in this country that is a favorite today for the canoeist was first explored by men in a crude yet beautiful canoe. So in looking over the history of the use of this type of watercraft you find plenty of romance surrounding it. There was romance and thrills a-plenty in the old days when traveling in a canoe. But you can still find "them things" today if you want to hit the flowing road in some parts of this country.

Wisconsin, famous for the canoe history it has made, is rich in water routes over which you can wield your paddle. You can reach them either by automobile or railroad. One of the old favorites is a float down the Wisconsin river from Conover. If you want a comparatively easy jaunt with a minimum amount of portaging this is the route you'd better try. You can ship your canoe to Conover and there buy your grub. Putting in at this town you can float and paddle over a mighty pretty stretch of water which offers good fishing. It is not a case of loafing along on sluggish water, either. If you like to get a kick out of canoeing by shooting rapids you will have an opportunity for a little of this excitement on this trip as there are a couple of swift stretches that will make you keep your eye on the ball.

However, if you know anything about canoeing you can embark on this trip without a guide as the Wisconsin river between Conover and Rhineland is not a stretch that has a lot of rapids demanding expert guiding and handling of a canoe. This trip can take most any amount of time you choose. If you are a real water dog and like to loaf along fishing nearly every likely looking spot better plan on taking a couple of weeks for this jaunt. Anyway, who wants to hurry on a canoe trip? When you have to wield a paddle as if you were going to fire it's more work than fun. Nothing like having lots of time for a water trip. Then when you hit a particularly inviting spot for camping and the fishing is good—why, you can take it easy, go fishin' and let the water in the river roll by.

A different type of canoe trip, one which consists mostly of paddling over placid lakes and with more portaging, is that jaunt from the Lac du Flambeau to Horsehead lake. You can ship your ship to the Lac du Flambeau station, get a haul from there to the lake of that name and you are ready to start. Or you can ship your canoe to Winegar and finish up at the Flambeau [see map in the automobile section of today's Tribune]. This route between Lac du Flambeau and Horsehead lake is a dandy, takes you through part of an Indian reservation, means traversing nineteen lakes and offers corking fine fishing.

You pass through some pretty wild stretches, too. But to make the entire jaunt means five portages. Not many, to be sure, but one of them [Swamp lake to Trout river] is a pretty long one. But there are many variations in routes in this section so that you can canoe without many portages. For instance, you can start at Horsehead instead of in Lac du Flambeau and work down through Armour, Little Crab, Crab, and Round lakes, then through Rice creek on into Island lake. [For this jaunt ship your canoe to Winegar, Wisconsin.] Here you are in the Manitowish waters and through this connected chain of lakes you can get all the cruising and fishing you want without a long portage such as must be made from Swamp lake to the Trout river.

THREE MINUTES