

# Can it really—can it really be spring?

By LEM MESEE  
Outdoors writer

It was a thrill I had missed for months—the feel of the Huron River's current as it caught my canoe and headed us downstream. Seated in the stern, I pulled my paddle in a J-stroke to turn the bow into the middle of the river.

I'm not a demonstrative guy, but I had to let out a "yippeee!" Last weekend's jaunt was the first of the season, a short warm-up to get our arms in shape for the longer trips that would follow, both on the friendly Huron and the streams of the north country.

In a canoe, you and your partner and your canoe are one with nature. You're part of the flow of water and wind and stream bank, not opposed to it.

My buddy, C.O. Jones, and I always start canoeing in March. In fact, we usually start the first weekend in March, and this year the cold weather had kept us off running water an extra two weeks.

LAST WEEKEND was a good time to start. In the deep woods, the snow was beginning to melt, raising the river level and speeding the current.

The result, if you tip, can be catastrophic, but you don't tip. When the water is high, you have almost no chance of getting hung up on a sunken log, that's how you tip. And when the current is fast, the amount of hard paddling you need to do is reduced.

Shawandasee the south wind gave us a bad time. We hugged the southern shore for as much shelter as possible. Along the north shore, the wind was actually whipping up whitecaps.

The nicest part of canoeing was that for the first time all season, we couldn't hear the putrid bray of snowmobiles. There was peace in the woods and on the river. There are virtually no motorboats on such a shallow river—no hordes of people with gasoline on the brain.

We did note ruefully that some hill crests bore muddy gashes, the wounds of snowmobiles and trail bikes. The gashes will be the source of erosion and silt later.

BEST OF ALL, there were birds and animals again.

With the snowmobiles gone, you could see and hear them. I spotted deer tracks and droppings on shore in a spot where I hadn't seen a trace of a deer all winter.

In the roots along the riverbank, I heard a slosh and saw a brown patch of fur. A muskrat stared at us in disbelief, then slid through the roots and into his lair.

C.O. pointed to a bend in the river ahead, where a pair of black ducks and what looked like a pair of mallards lifted off. Black ducks are around all year, but the mallards are a sign of spring. They didn't appear to be in flocks but in male-female pairs.

High on a dead tree was a giant bird—a heron, I thought at first. But no, there was no mistaking that short neck and hooked beak—a bird of prey, probably a red-tailed hawk. If we had waited for warm weather to start canoeing, we would never have spotted the bird through the foliage.

We landed for a sip of chablis from the goatskin winebag and a bite of lunch. It was a warm hill-side with a southern exposure. A garter snake stopped dead in its tracks, hoping we wouldn't notice him. C.O. gave him a little nudge with a twig, and the striped fellow slid off.

We hoisted the winebag and toasted the creator who had provided us such a magnificent place to be.

## WHO ARE THE area's "master anglers"?

Eighteen of Michigan's most successful fishermen of 1977 will receive master angler certificates at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 25.

The occasion will be an all-day clinic of the Detroit Area Chapter of the Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association in East Hills Junior High, 200 Kensington at Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills.

Bob Cox of Westland will be the first angler to receive his second certificate in this five-year-old state program. Certificates are awarded to persons who catch state record fish or one of the top five fish of each species.

If your dream comes true of catching aunker in 1978, here are the rules for winning your master angler certificate:

1. Weigh the fish on a certified state scale (grocery store, meat market) and record the scale's serial number. Record the location and date of the catch.
2. Obtain signatures of two witnesses verifying the weight of the catch.
3. Include a close-up side view photo, preferably in color, for identification purposes.
4. If the catch exceeds the current state record, contact the Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist for positive identification and verification.
5. Submit entries and photo to: DNR, Fisheries Division, Box 30028 Lansing, MI 48909. Forms and assistance are available from DNR district and

regional offices. Check your 1978 fish law digest (the pamphlet you get when you buy your license) for DNR office locations.

6. Submit your entry prior to Jan. 10, 1978. KENNINGTON Metropark's popular nature center programs continue this week with:

• "Salamanders and Frogs" at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 25. Naturalist Steve Horn will present a 1½-

hour program with slides. If weather permits, there will be an outside walk.

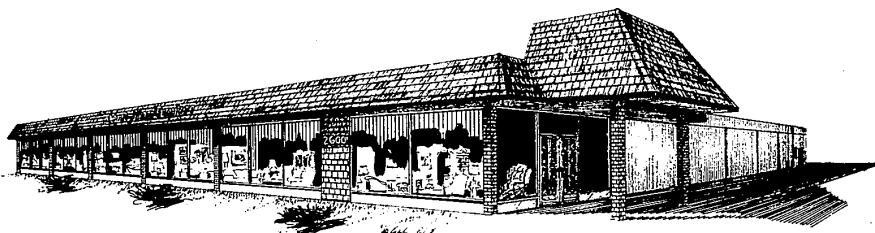
• "Stars of the March Sky" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 29. Steve Horn leads this 1½-hour program, too. Dress warmly for an outdoor walk if sky conditions permit. Otherwise, there will be an indoor slide program.

Kensington Metropark is located in western Oakland County north of I-96. Use the Kensington Road exit to reach the nature center. Programs are free, but you'll need either a daily (\$1) or season (\$5) entry permit. Register in advance by calling the park office at 685-1561.

Hudson Mills is on North Territorial about 20 miles west of downtown Plymouth.

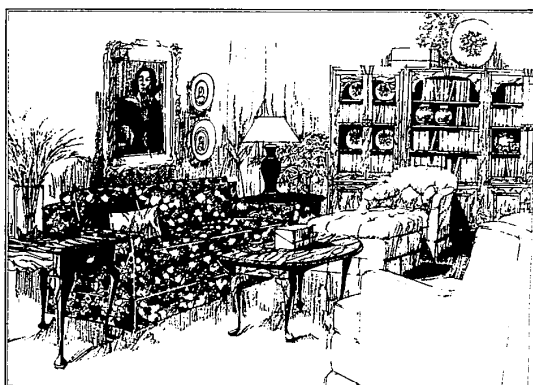
Sheila Mitchell an 86 year old survivor of the ocean liner Britannic which sank in 1916, answered a Want Ad placed by Jacques Cousteau who plans to explore the wreck. He wanted survivors to help him find his way around but Mitchell got seasick when she boarded his research ship.

## Something Wonderful Is Happening On Woodward Avenue



Stewart Glenn is Proud to Present  
our all New

## Pennsylvania House Gallery



We've remodeled our store front and made a big change in our floor display. Our entire Pennsylvania House Gallery is now in beautiful room settings. Come in and see all new Pennsylvania House upholstery carefully coordinated to blend with the surrounding wallpapers and paint colors. All types of rooms are shown on our floor, and are designed to show you just how beautiful your home can be. Of course, during the opening of our Gallery our interior decorators will be here to serve you and help you coordinate your own rooms.

And during this Grand Opening of our Pennsylvania House Gallery, we will have a STOREWIDE SALE to help you save on your redecorating. So come in and see the new look at Stewart Glenn, Oakland County's oldest family owned furniture store.



## Be A Winner

During our Grand Opening we will have a drawing to give away the beautiful Pennsylvania House Miniature Chest in Solid Cherry pictured at right. We will also give away several other fine pieces of Pennsylvania House Furniture. Of course, you don't need to be present to win. And everyone can have a free copy of the Pennsylvania House Collector's book just for the asking. So come in and browse through our new room settings and enjoy our refreshments. We'll be looking for you!

Sale Ends Saturday, March 25th

**Jim's DISCOUNT ALL**

**LAWN AND GARDEN PRODUCTS**  
SCOTTS, GREENVIEW & ETC.  
SCOTTS TURF BUILDER  
15,000 sq. ft. **\$2150**  
Reg. \$24.95

**SPECIAL SALE GREENVIEW**  
SPRING TONIC ONLY **\$1433**  
15,000 sq. ft. 20-4-4

**CRABICIDE GREEN**  
CRABGRASS PREVENTER & FERT.  
5,000 sq. ft. **\$1277**  
Reg. 14.95

**FREE DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME**  
WITH \$50.00 ORDER OR PICK UP WITH AD FOR FREE GIFT.

OFFER ENDS 4-1-78  
WITH DELIVERY, FREE PROFESSIONAL ON-THE-SPOT COUNSELING WITH YOUR INDIVIDUAL LAWN PROBLEMS. ALSO SUGGESTIONS ON YOUR PRESENT OR FUTURE PATIO OR LANDSCAPING NEEDS. JUST CALL THE PRO'S UN-3-3720 WITH YOUR PROBLEMS & ORDER.

OPEN Daily 9-6 • Fri. & Sat. 9-7 • Sun. 10-4

**JIM'S GREEN THUMB**  
Nursery & Garden Center • UN 3-3720  
Landscape Contractor  
17184 Schafer Rd.  
1/2 MI. N. of E. Mile Rd.

STEWART-GLENN CO.  
"YOUR FULL SERVICE STORE"  
has no extra charge for:

- \* Careful Inspection and Set-Up
- \* Courteous Delivery Service
- \* Generous Storewide Parking

Ask our Interior Designers to help with your decorating problems.

\*\*\*\*\*

Use our 4 Pay Plan (no interest) or use your Master Charge or BankAmericard.