

How To Take Up Family Camping ...

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Staff Writer

Rent, borrow, take what you have — but don't think you have to buy a whole camping outfit before you start camping.

"A professional camper," Mrs. Richard (Marge) Schulkins of Farmington, who is a field director for the National Campers and Hikers Association, was asked how a family which didn't know anything about camping could get started.

"A lot of people seem to think they need stacks of equipment before they can start, but that just isn't true," Mrs. Schulkins said.

One of the worst enemies of the first-time camper is his own temptation to be easily discouraged. Being turned away at a state park is often the first big blow to a camping vacation.

"Don't give up and go home," Mrs. Schulkins advised. "Try for a spot in a private campground. These are usually less crowded and the camping rates are about the same as in public parks." Private parks are listed in most campground directories.

A LOT OF FIRST-TIME camping woes can be eliminated by a dry run in the backyard or an overnight in a neighborhood park. Some families are ready to head out on a post-coast trip with no more experience than this, Mrs. Schulkins said.

"Most families begin camping because of the economy factor," she explained, "but a love of outdoors and people is probably what keeps us coming back."

A camping guide, which lists campgrounds throughout the nation, should be part of the camping family library, Mrs. Schulkins said.

BASIC CAMPING equipment can be rented for about \$35 a week. Some items could come from camping neighbors or friends. For dishes, cooking

utensils, linens, just take what you need from home supplies, she suggested.

"Beginning campers are more likely to take too much than too little."

Any standard list of essential camp and personal equipment will be a big help to the beginner, she said. "But most small things that you forget are available at the small stores near developed campgrounds."

Of course, the lists of camping essentials depend on what kind of camping your family is planning. What looks like a list of essentials to a trailer camping family would be a joke to a man who planned on hiking for a week with all his equipment on his back. "That's another reason for not buying equipment all at once," Mrs. Schulkins said. "Today there are so many different ways to camp that it really pays to try out several camping outfits, tent, trailer, camper — before you buy."

Basic camping equipment can be purchased for about \$300, she said. A list of the really basic items includes: a tent, a sleeping bag for each camper, a first-aid kit, blankets, a flashlight, sanitary supplies, basic dishes and cooking utensils, a lantern, a stove and fuel.

Some items of personal gear are much more important when camping than when packing for a trip. Don't forget: mosquito repellent, sunburn lotion, rainwear, heavy gloves.

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OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS

...And How The Veterans Rough It

Ten days in the Northern Ontario wilderness. A five-mile boat ride to the nearest outpost of civilization. Main concern: fishing. Spare time: bear hunting.

Obviously not a vacation plan for the faint-hearted.

Observer Newspapers circulation director Fred Wright and four friends decided that the time had come to escape suburbia. They planned a he-man, roughing-it camping trip in the birch woods of Northern Ontario.

The five, who with extensive experience, picked up some gear and arranged to obtain the rest from a native outfitter of the far north.

They headed for a campsite along the Chapleau River, near the village of Chapleau, about 150 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie.

The five suburbanites cooked over a stone age stove, protected their equipment with a windbreak lashed together from birch poles and 20th century plastic (photo below).

All of their gear was moved to the campsite along the river by boat.

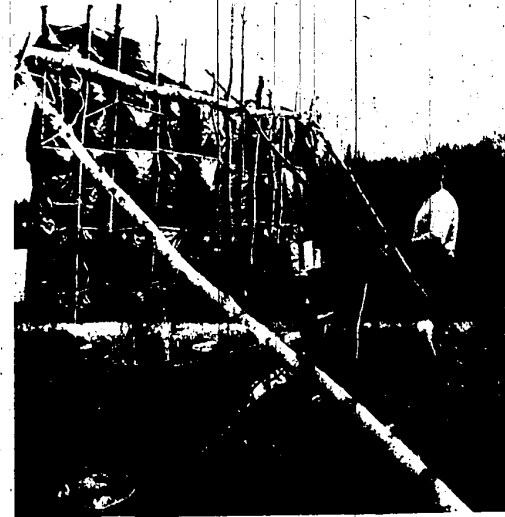
They ate well — fish, eggs, bacon, steaks. "Eating was all we really had to worry about," Fred says.

No bear meat in the pan, though. The five tried stalking the big black bears, but the big black flies got to the hunters first.

What was the worst part of primitive camping? "No ice to keep the beer cold."



Fred Wright stirs the stew.



WINDBREAK of birch poles and plastic.

Toddler's Potty Seat Handy Gear

The age of civilized camping, with trailers, tent-trailers and well-developed campgrounds, might not appeal to the old mountain men, but it has been a real boon to suburban families with young children.

Campgrounds with electricity and automatic washing machines help cut routine baby maintenance to a minimum. Trailers and campers make it possible to take along most of the equipment that will keep young children comfortable and out of trouble.

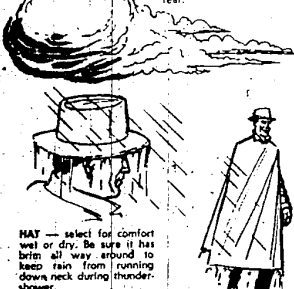
Disposable diapers are frequently the solution to the diaper problem.

ON ANY CAMPING trip, a young child should be portable. A back carrier in which a child can ride, papoose style, is almost indispensable.

Many camping mothers claim that the most important equipment for toddlers out of diapers is the child's potty seat. A child who still isn't sure he likes toilets at all can't be expected to approach a primitive outhouse with confidence.

When The Rain Comes

THUNDERHEAD has anvil-shaped cloud at top. Watch out when it moves your way. Heaviest rain and wind are at peak under roll cloud near rear.

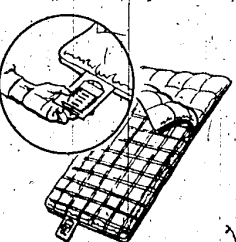


HAT — select for comfort wet or dry. Be sure it has brim all way around to keep rain from running down neck during thunder shower.

PONCHO should come below knees. If too short water drips on legs from bottom seam, at night use as ground cloth under sleeping bag.



PICK CAMPSITE carefully, avoid nearby slopes which can release mud and rock when wet, and pass up dry stream beds, river banks that can overflow during storm.



SLEEPING BAG that is filled with virgin "Dacron" polyester fiberfill dries out quickly if rained on, prevents long delays on trail to dry out. Be sure of quality filler material, read label on bag.



ABOVE: North woods campers (from left) Henry Prentice, William Avery, Joseph Holman and Robert Maynes prepare a classic one-dish meal — fresh fish. Holman is from Northville, the others are Livonians.

Many Spots Within A Couple of Hours Drive

The beginning camper doesn't need to plan a month-long expedition to the far north woods to get a taste of outdoor living. There are 14 state parks with a total of nearly 2,500 campsites in an area bordered roughly by Jackson on the west, Flint on the north and Ohio on the south. All are within an hour or two driving distance from the northwest suburban area.

Most of Michigan's state parks are equipped with bathhouses, flush toilets, electricity and concession stands.

Motor vehicles must have an annual permit (\$2) or a daily permit (50 cents) to enter state parks.

Campsite rental ranges from \$1.50 to \$2 a day, depending on facilities provided.

From June 15 through Labor Day, campers are limited to 15 days in any one state park with an additional 30 days during other months.

State parks with campsites in the southeastern section of the state (see numbered map) are:

1—W. J. HAYES: Nine miles west of Clinton on US-12 and M-124. 202 campsites, with store, showers, laundry, library, boats and bathhouse. Electricity, water, toilets, boat launch site, trailer sanitation facility and bathing beach included.

2—WATERLOO: Surrounds the village of Waterloo, accessible from I-94, M-52 and M-106 over country roads. 450 campsites, with laundry, shower, bathhouse. Includes electricity, water, toilets, boat launch site, trailer sanitation facility and bathing beach.

3—PINKNEY: Can be reached from M-56, east of Gregory, North Territorial Rd. and M-52, from Unadilla or from Dexter-Howell Road. 314 campsites, with laundry, shower, bathhouse. Includes electricity, water, toilets, boat launch site, trailer sanitation

disposal and bathing beach. 4—BRIGITON: Three miles southwest of Brighton off I-96, US-23 and M-30. 270 campsites, with box toilets, store, bathhouse. Includes boat launch site and bathing beach.

5—ISLAND LAKE: Four miles east of Brighton just south of I-96. 104 campsites, with boats, canoes, stores, bathhouses, water, toilets. Includes bathing beach.

6—POND LAKE: 12 miles southwest of Pontiac, accessible from M-59 and M-218. 181 campsites, nearby store. Includes electricity, water, toilets, boat launch site and trailer sanitation disposal.

7—HIGHLAND: 17 miles west of Pontiac on M-59. 60 campsites, with complete facilities except electricity. Includes boat launch site and bathing beach.

8—PONTIAC LAKE: Seven miles west of Pontiac on M-59. 40 campsites, with store, water, toilets, bathhouse. Includes boat launch site and bathing beach.

9—ORTONVILLE: Northwest of Ortonville. 80 campsites, with box toilets, store nearby. Includes boat launch site and bathing beach.

10—METTISHA HADLEY: One and a half miles west of M-24, two miles from Metamora. 240 campsites, with laundry, showers. Includes electricity, water, toilets, bathing beach.

11—HOLLY: 12 miles north of Pontiac on I-75. 190 campsites, with toilets, water, store, bathhouse. Includes boat launch site and bathing beach.

12—BALD MOUNTAIN: Seven miles north of Pontiac east of M-24. 80 campsites, with limited improvements and development.

13—LAKEPORT: 10 miles north of Port Huron on US-25. 227 campsites with store, showers, laundry, bathhouse. Includes electricity, water, toilets, boat launch site, trailer sanitation disposal and bathing beach.

14—ALGONAC: Two miles north on M-29. 304 campsites, with electricity, water, toilets, boat launch site, trailer sanitation disposal.

