

# RADIO SHACK

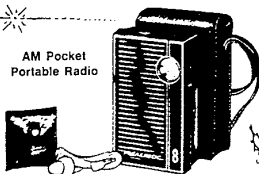
## ALLIED RADIO



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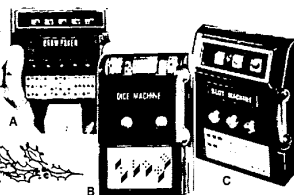
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# Young Canoeists In Political Bind; Liveries Fight Trout Fishermen

By LEM MESEE  
Outdoors Writer

LANSING

Thousands of youngsters who take weekend canoe trips down four famous northern rivers are caught in the middle of a political battle between organized trout fishermen and canoe livery operators.

The battleground is the Natural Resources Commission, which has tentatively adopted rules sharply restricting the numbers of canoes on those rivers and canoeing procedures.

Those two groups, along with canoeists themselves and riverfront property owners, argued their cases last week at a public hearing set up by the NRC. None of the five NRC members, however, attended. The hearing was conducted by Troy Yoder, a DNR staffer.

THE RIVERS involved are the Au Sable, Pine, Manistee and Pere Marquette. Among the proposed rules:

• Permits would be required and the number of craft would be limited to 30 per hour on popular canoeing stretches of those rivers on weekends from the opening of

trout season (last week of April) through the end of June.

• Watercraft hours would be restricted to 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Exception: Fishermen using canoes could go earlier and later.

• A provision for group permits, written into an earlier version of the rules, has been knocked out.

• Livery operators would have to identify their craft by name and number (which most do anyway); provide canoeists with litter bags, maps and warnings that the river is patrolled; and give them written and oral instructions on usage rules.

• Canoeists must stay in single file (except when passing), keep three lengths apart, may not "tail" (be two or more craft together) ... and so on.

MOST DEBATERS discussed pros and cons of the rules, but one outcast trout fisherman denounced the rules as a farce. He suggested trout fishermen could easily apply for all the permits, tear them up and eliminate canoeists altogether. He was loudly booed after he

said that fishermen are more desirable in resort towns such as Grayling, because they spend more money in town than do canoeists. Otherwise the meeting was orderly.

On the other extreme, a livery operator suggested the DNR think of the rivers as "canoe streams" rather than "trout streams."

A Farmington man, Neil Travis, said that in the last 15 years the Au Sable has turned into a "nightmare of noise and litter."

A member of the board of Trout Unlimited, a naturalist and photographer, Travis said canoeists are the only group of outdoors users who have no restrictions on seasons or methods of enjoying themselves and need no permits.

Travis suggested the rules be extended to cover more dates than just May and June. He urged DNR to "avoid turning our northern rivers into amusement parks."

A BIRMINGHAM youth leader, Hugh Beekins, called the ramifications of the rules "frightening" to young people. He declared the rules would do more damage to youth than they would do good to the environment.

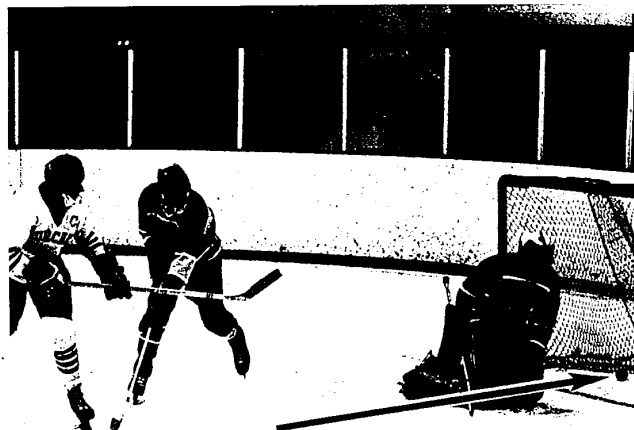
Beekins also sharply criticized a rule that would require canoes to be launched five minutes apart on "low intensity" stretches of river. With a group of 15 canoes, he said, the leader would be more than an hour behind the first canoe and able to give little aid in the event of an accident.

Several speakers suggested that DNR do more to publicize other rivers and thus take some pressure off the more popular ones.

A DNR official told the Observer in a telephone interview, however, that most other rivers lack canoe liveries. While canoe owners could find other places, the scout and youth groups rent canoes.

Sen. John Toepp (R-Cadillac), whose district covers several of the rivers, asked the DNR to hold more hearings and declared the rules, if imposed, would put many livery operators out of business.

Toepp said the joint rules committee gets to review all administrative rules and regulations, such as the ones covering canoes, and vowed he would fight the rules on the Senate floor.



CHURCHILL SCORE — Mark DeRoche slaps a shot past Southfield goalie Steve Sund in the opening high school league clash.

Churchill outpowered Southfield 12-3. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

## Aliens Must Register By Jan. 31

U.S. Post Offices will again cooperate with the Immigration and Naturalization Service in assisting all aliens to comply with the alien address report requirements, the U.S. Postal Service announced today.

In compliance with the 1952 Immigration and Naturalization Act, each alien must report his current ad-

dress not later than Jan. 31, 1972. Report forms are now available at all local post offices.

## Former Coach

George Breaz, Wayne State University 1971 football captain, had former WSU quarterback Tom Grange, MVP of the 1964 conference championship football team, as his coach at Huron High School.

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