

Canoes, Kayaks Speckle Rivers, Lakes, Streams

Canoing is for those who enjoy the unexpected.

Startled Mallard ducks taking flight as your canoe slips around a bend. Rustling in the brush along the shore and a glimpse of an otter searching for food. A trout breaking water to gulp a tantalizing insect. And the sight and sound of cool spring water cascading down a rocky cliff is always so refreshing.

AT FIRST GLANCE all canoes appear to be pretty much alike. But don't you believe it. There are fifty some manufacturers in the U.S. alone. Canoes vary in shape, size and construction materials. From this wide selection you should have no trouble finding a canoe to fit your requirements and pocketbook.

The wood-canvas canoe is preferred by canoe purists because it most closely resembles the American Indian variety in construction. They prefer its quiet operation and advocate its superior maneuverability. The quiet is particularly important to fishermen where the loud slap-slap of the water on an aluminum or fiberglass hull disturbs the fish.

But the wood-canvas canoe has drawbacks. As it absorbs water it increases somewhat in weight. Further, canvas and wood canoes require periodic attention and care such as revarnishing and painting and they cost slightly more than the aluminum and fiberglass varieties.

Aluminum canoes are more durable than the other types. They res-

ist punctures and tears; dents are easily punched back into shape and they are relatively maintenance free. The main disadvantage is the surface absorbs heat from the summer sun and becomes hot to the touch. They are also noisier than other types.

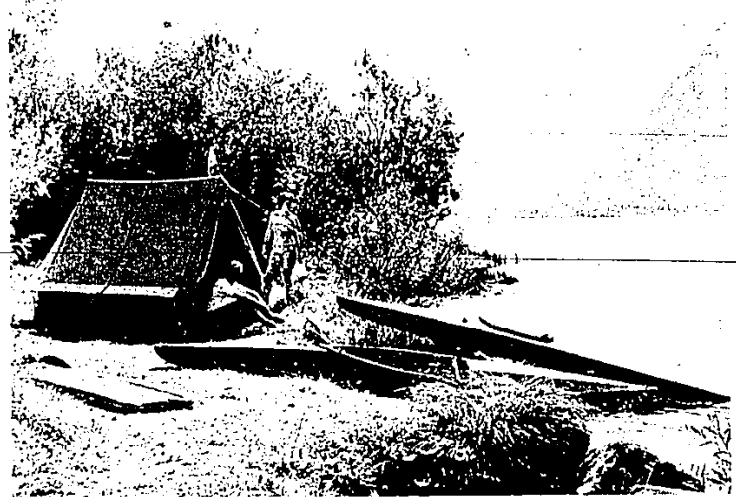
NEWEST IN THE FIELD is the fiber glass canoe. They are slightly heavier in weight than the other varieties and are strong and durable. Surface tears are easily mended with epoxy paint. Noticeable improvements are being made all the time and in most respects it is equal to the other varieties.

Most canoes made today offer sufficient buoyancy to float even when filled with water. Plastic foam or air chambers built in fore and aft make them virtually unsinkable.

In selecting a lightweight canoe, you may require a capacity greater than you feel you need. Larger canoes ride higher and move faster with the same paddling energy. In heavy waves and rapids they also provide a distinct safety advantage.

Some 13-15-foot canoes paddle sluggishly when carrying normal loads. While one might prefer a shorter one from the portaging standpoint, the difference in weight between these and the 17 to 18-foot canoe is negligible considering the lower level and the paddling drag of the shorter model.

Now for the canoe paddle. It should be long enough to reach your chin when standing. The stern



A MAN, A WOMAN, A BOAT blend perfectly into the scene that nature has created. Tent camping is man's way of getting back to basic living.

paddler, who does most of the steering, should use a paddle three or four inches longer than that of the bowman.

THE BASIC TECHNIQUE of paddling is simple. Hold the knob atop the paddle in your palm and grip the shaft close to the blade with your other hand. Pull backward with your lower arm while thrusting forward with the upper arm.

Paddlers can either sit or kneel on pads, whichever they find the most comfortable. From the kneeling position one can exert a more powerful stroke.

Ordinary paddling tends to direct the canoe away from a straight course. To maintain it, the stern paddler can give a slight outward thrust with his paddle at the end of each stroke. This maneuver, called the "J" stroke, is generally preferable to the method of alternating the paddle from one side to another every third or fourth stroke. There are draw strokes, sweep strokes, jam strokes and others for the advanced canoeist.

To best turn the canoe the man in the stern backwaters, or trails the paddle.

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