

Vol. III, No. 1

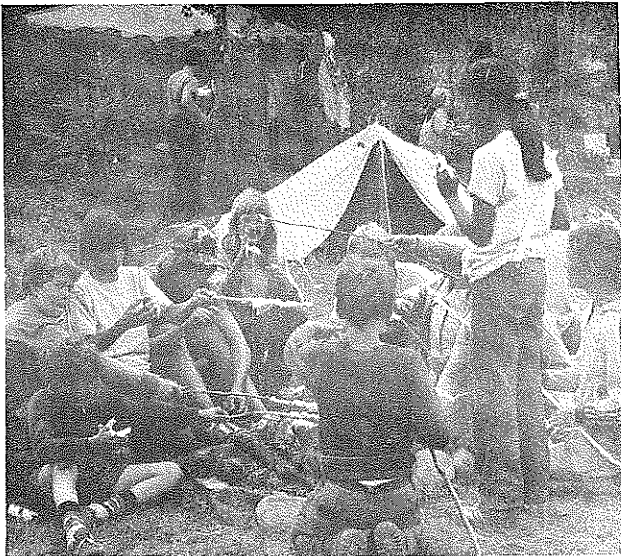
August, 1982

# PHASE I RABBITER

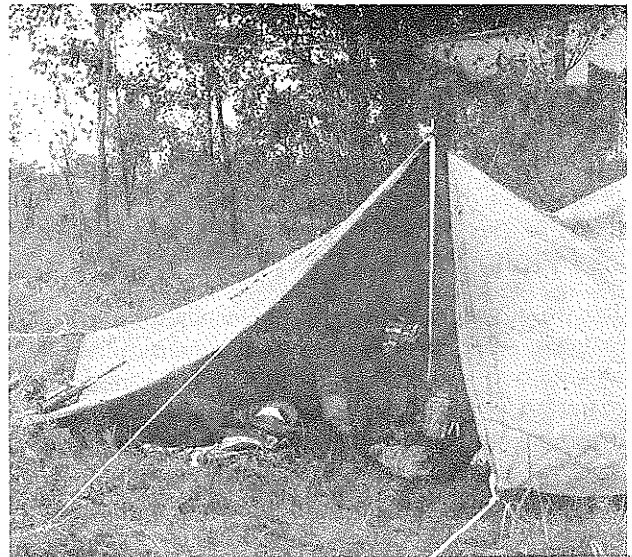
## VOYAGEURS

## 1982

FOCUS ON SURVIVAL



*taming the fire*



*surviving the rain*



*mastering the skills*



*navigating the lakes*

# VOYAGE INTO THE WILDERNESS

The sixth grade journey of 1982 was an encounter with the wilderness of the Voyageurs: the Boundary Waters between the United States and Canada. Seventeen sixth graders were sent out on the 28th of June and charged to keep a journal, create a symbol, and write a song. Four and a half weeks later they returned for a closing celebration on the 28th of July.

The purpose of the journey, which has been a part of the Phase 1 program since 1969, is to make the pass from childhood to youth. In previous years, the sixth graders have gone to the Grand Canyon, Seattle and West Coast, Appalachians, Colorado Rockies, Indian Reservation in Montana and, last year, Mexico.

The adult facilitators were Terry Bergdall, Pam Bergdall, Helen Haug, Barry McGuire and Nathan Otto part time.

## GETTING OUR ACT TOGETHER

After we got sent out from the Nexus we went to the Westside. We collected our equipment and we gathered our food and spent until 12 in the morning organizing our food for the next 3 weeks. The first night out we spent at a State Park because our car broke down. We got our first practice outdoor cooking on a Coalman stove. Then we pushed on to Lake Harriet when the car was done.

## SETTING UP A BASE CAMP

We arrived in the late afternoon. That night the McWilliams came but only for a short visit. It had rained the evening before we set out and it was still drizzling. The McWilliams came to help us prepare our first meal. (We had pancakes with real syrup and batter. The other meals were made up of dried ingredients.) They also showed us how to set up a fireplace so you can cook while it's raining (It did rain!) and lent us cooking utensils. Later people went fishing and enjoyed themselves. That afternoon Jane and Paul Heimerdinger arrived. The rest of the week we learned basic canoe skills. We learned to paddle in windy weather, how to rescue an overturned canoe, and how to portage. Julie Salmon was doing a one person

portage and unfortunately slipped and the canoe fell right on her leg. Luckily nothing was broken. We were supposed to go on a 15 mile hike - 7½ miles up and 7½ back - but it rained so we went to a nearby town and had pizza at a store. Toward the end of the week we made pizzas from scratch with a reflector oven. It was a success (thanks to team three). Then we packed up and left. We went to Gunflint, washed clothes took hot showers (most of us) and had a celebration with ham to embark on the BWCA. We also named our teams - EAGLES, HAWKS and BEAVERS. The next day we left.

## EIGHT DAYS IN THE BWCA



The major challenge of the 6th grade trip occurred while we were in the Boundary Water Canoe Area (BWCA) located on the Minnesota and Ontario border. The BWCA is an area set aside by the federal government as a wilderness preserve. No motorized vehicles are allowed and camping groups are limited in size to a maximum of nine people. All food must be carried in and no bottles or cans are allowed. Water is no problem however because campers drink straight from the unpolluted lakes. We were outfitted with our canoes on the Gunflint Trail.

Due to size restrictions we were required to travel in our three separate teams, the Eagles, Hawks, and Beavers. During the week in the BWCA we paddled 40 miles in 13 lakes. (Seagull, Alpine, Jasper, Anne, Knife, Jean, Eddy, Saganaga, Swamp, Hanson, First Bay, Second Bay, and Third Bay, making 12 portages and canoeing through one set of rapids. We were told that at this pace each person paddled over ten thousand strokes a day.

# THE RETURN AS YOUTH

## SOLITARY VIGIL

A vigil is a night long period by yourself thinking about the purpose and direction of your life. The Knight of the Roundtable had to spend one night praying over his armor. When Gandhi was thrown off the train, he spent one night thinking about what had happened and how he would react to it. In the same way we decided to have a vigil by spending the night alone in the woods thinking about our transition to youth.

The first thing we did was pack our bags for the night and decide between tentmates who got the tent and who got the tarp. When it became dark we each wrote one of our childish ways and cast it into the fire. We each took a Vow of Silence and then were blindfolded and were taken into the woods for the night. When the blindfolds were removed we were left in the dark, dark woods. Before the night was over it rained. In the morning we were brought three matches, one egg, a piece of paper and a pencil. We had to write a letter to ourselves that would be opened on our eighteenth birthday. The letter was to contain what you anticipate in the future. The BWCA was a group passage and the Vigil was our solitary rite.

-Julie Salmon.

## PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

On their return the new Youth presented gifts to Nexus to symbolize their stepping out of the old role of dependent Childhood and returning as responsible Youth. A 12" corporately carved birchwood canoe was presented to the Panchayat. It symbolized the Journey. A print of three Voyageur's canoes, symbolizing the three teams, was presented to the Student House.

## SYMBOL

*The three people are our three teams. The canoe is Journey. The canoe passes through the rainbow, symbol of hope, from Childhood toward Youth.*

## SONG

*Tune: Sipping cider*

The 6th grade trip is a tale to tell  
So I'll tell it short and I'll tell it well

Now 17 kids set bravely forth  
To the Boundary Lakes away up North

They set up camp to practice in  
To learn to cook and how to swim

They learned to paddle the basic strokes  
And they learned those strokes from different folks

They carried canoes in the pouring rain  
Down to the lake and back again

They could start a fire with just one match  
When their pants wore out they learned to patch

By teams they went to the wilderness  
To pass their own survival test

In spite of all that they had learned  
Those 17 kids just never returned

Now that ain't bad it's just the truth  
'Cause those 17 kids came back as youth.

## LEGACY IN MUNISING

A Work day in the Municipal campgrounds of Munising, Michigan, left a legacy of cleaner, more usable and beautiful space. We were treated to a scenic boat ride, a visit with a local fishing industry, and the opportunity to attend church services at the invitation of Rev. Les Neimi.





## THE HAWKS

Why our name? Hawks are birds of prey and like to explore and search for their food. We are explorers and like to search for new places.

The things we most remember about the trip include when George Hawley was carrying the food bag and tripped on a root and almost fell off the cliff into the rapids below. Another highlight was when George Hawley, John Mark, and Robbie Jinks caught a bullhead about a foot and a half long, but it slipped out of Robbie's hands and got away. At a portage the beavers and us mistakenly traded bags and canoes. When we were swimming the Hawks swam to an island which was halfway across the lake.

Our team was special because we paddled by ourselves and we didn't have any adult help. The hardest part of the trip was portaging and paddling. During the trip we learned a lot of basic camping skills and we learned to get along with people better.

The Hawks team was George Hawley, John Mark, Karen Kucera, Robbie Jinks, Jon Gilles and Elizabeth Williams.

## THE EAGLES



Eagles are known for their independence and strength. Camping on Alpine Lake Jon Crocker caught a 20 inch Lake Trout. It was a delicious dinner. We saw a moose, quite a few loons, and a couple of families of ducks. On our last campsite on the channel of Lake Saganaga, there were 20 foot high rocks that we jumped off. It was fun. No-one got homesick.

Portaging was the hardest part of this trip. This is carrying our canoes and our packs across an area of land. Some of the portages were very steep and rocky, such as the 120 rod portage and the monument portage on the border of Canada. (A rod is 16½'.) On every portage we first carried our packs to see what the land was like. Then we went back and got the canoes.

Now that we have finished our Rite of Passage we are stronger, we are more independent, and we know how to cook over an open fire.

The Eagles members are: Unit 1- Julie Salmon, Jon Crocker, and Matthew Mann, and Unit 2- Sherylin Paul, Dirk Rettig, and Chris McKay

## THE BEAVERS



We named our team the beavers because we were builders and creators, independent and responsible. One day, camping on Alpine Lake, Laura Early was practicing casting the fishing pole. We were setting up our tents when we heard a big scream. Helen thought someone was hurt. We all turned around to see what was happening. There was a baby bass on Laura's fishing pole and she was still screaming. Helen decided to take a picture of Laura holding the first fish she had caught. Another highlight was spending the night in Canada. It was late in the afternoon and we knew we would get caught by a storm if we didn't find a campsite quick, so Helen decided to camp at an undesignated campsite for the night. We didn't know we were in Canada until the next morning when Helen looked at the map and said, "Gee whiz, We've got to get out of here fast before the rangers catch us." Another big highlight was when we went bobbing. Bobbing is when two people in a canoe stand on the bow and stern of the canoe and start bouncing up and down until someone falls into the water. One special event we would like to share with you is that one day on Alpine Lake we saw four little beavers cross our path while we were canoeing.

One of the difficult things we did was portaging. Portaging means carrying canoes. One day we portaged five times. Our last portage was the eighty rods portage which is called the Monument Portage where you pass along the border of the United States and Canada. That portage was most difficult because we did the longest portage that day and we were all tired out from the other portages.

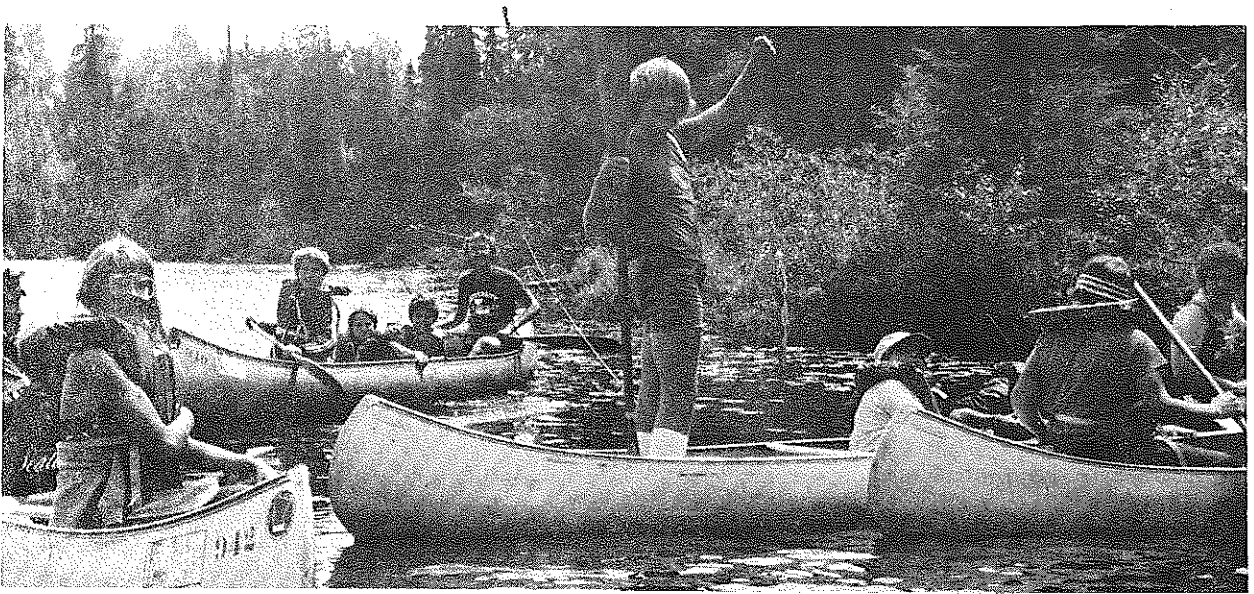
Before this trip we were depending on our parents, and now we are youth who are independent and responsible. We've thrown our childish ways into the fire.

The members of the Beavers - Angie Pennington, Laura Early, Ben Crocker, Jack Lush, David Lindblad and Barry McGuire.

# CHART

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
28 SEND OUT CHICAGO PREPARATION	29	30 TRAVEL STATE PARK	1 BASE CAMP	2	3 CAMP	4 TRAINING
5	6 CANOE	7 TRAINING	8	9 SHAKE DOWN HIKE	10	11 HERITAGE OUTING CELEBRATION
12 BREAK CAMP	13	14	15	16	17	18
→ VOYAGE IN THE BWCA →						
19 SET CAMP	20 HIGH	21 DRAMA CELEBRATION	22 TRAVEL	23	24 MUNI SING, MICHIGAN WORK DAYS	25 MICHIGAN STORY
26 MUNISING REFLECTION	27 TRAVEL MILWAUKEE	28 FINAL CELEBRATION	29 PRESENTATION TO NEXUS			

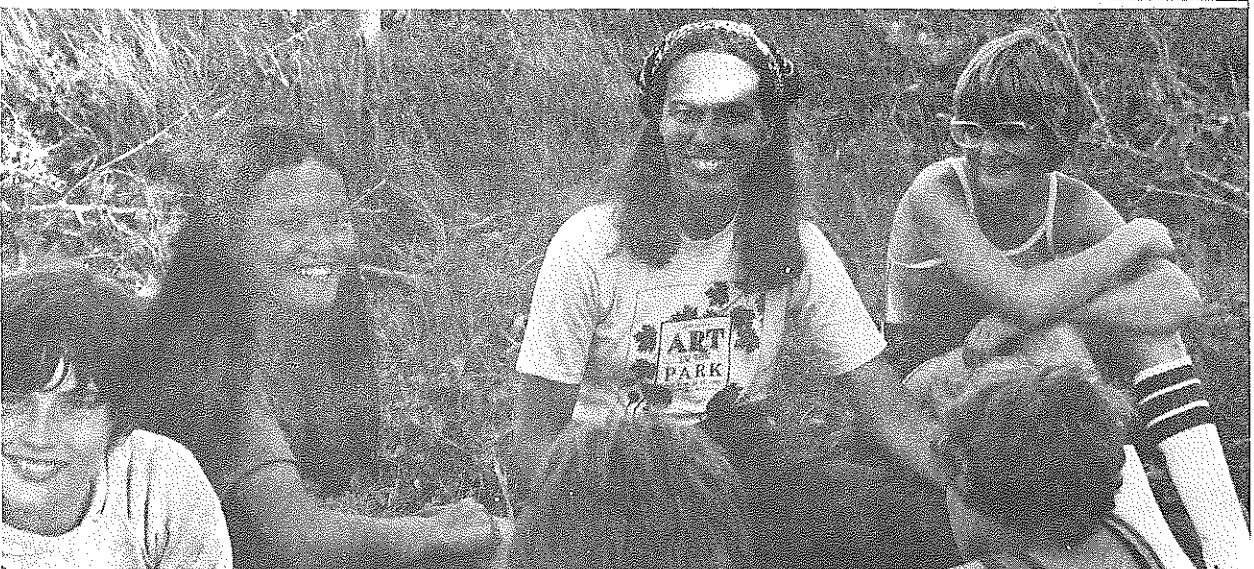




Putting aside childhood...



...but not fun



ONE CORPORATE THRUST FOR THE WORLD