

the Flyrodder



Published by the Long Island Fly Rodders, Inc.



The Flyrodder is the monthly publication of the Long Island Fly Rodders, Inc.
Gian Padovani, Editor
Rt. 3, Box 133B
Clyde, NC 28721

The Long Island Fly Rodders, Inc. meets at 8:00 P.M. the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Hicksville Elks Lodge on Barclay Street, off Rt. 107, north of Old Country Road. For information call the L.I.F.R. hotline (516) 679-5737

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MEETING DATE: Wednesday, Dec. 13, 1995

President's line

Brother and Sister Fly Fishers. *The month of November was filled with lots of memories. The LIFR first dinner/dance (run by Frank Krist) was a fun packed evening with everyone dancing the night away! There were raffles and door prizes. All of the Ladies received a plant—thanks to Schwarz Florist, who also donated a beautiful arrangement of pink roses for the raffle.

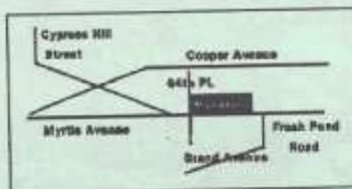
To help us get through the winter months ahead, November's speaker, our own Ken "Turn Em Loose" Kuhner, left us with thoughts of warm balmy breezes, sun drenched days and tackle busting tarpon and bonefishing in Belize.

The steelhead trip to the Salmon River in Pulaski, November 16/17, and 18/ saw twenty LIFR flog the water for three days in rain/sleet and snow—and like the postman—they delivered! The action was non stops a true Salmon River "Slammin Success" with bent rods and screaming reels and acrobatic steelhead breaking off.

Now that all of the Club's fishing trips have been completed for the year, it is time for all of you to voice your fishing desires. Come join our Trip Planning Committee to come up with some new destinations; the times and places will be announced at the December meeting.

The December meeting will feature our annual Christmas grab bag. All you have to do is bring in a gift pertaining to fly fishing, worth a minimum of \$10.00, and give it to Santa. At the end of the evening, Santa will take your ticket and give you a gift. There will also be a \$1.00 a chance raffle for a functionally well made, beautifully finished fly tying table, generously donated

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and made by LIFR's Dave Sekers. In 1996, we will once again charter a bus to take us to the Fly Fishing Show in New Jersey on Saturday, January 27th. The total cost including admission to the show, will be \$25. per person providing we have 44 people sign and pay by the December/January meeting.

The bus will make 4 stops: 1. McArthur Airport, 2. Huntington Park & Ride, 3. Glen Cove & West L.I. Ex-

pressway, 4. Queens- Deepdale. You will have to bring your lunch but beverages will be provided.

The bus is equipped with a lavatory and VCR. For further information, see Bruce Krabel.

Lest I forget.... To one and all.... "A very Merry Christmas, a Happy Hannukah, and a wonderful New Year filled with many a tight line and a quick release"

Al Manz

STEEL LEADER:

never leave home without it!

by Joe "Mr. Lucky" King

After watching a video on fly fishing for northern pike, I knew that I'd like to try it. My chance came in the form of a Christmas gift, a trip my wife booked for the Red Pine Wilderness Lodge in what is known as "The Near North" in Northern Ontario, Canada. And so, along with my friend Cliffy Bond and our wives we set out on Friday, September 1st. I knew that conditions would be good if the temperatures held up.

After an overnight stay in North Bay and 14 hours of travelling time, miraculously we were still all talking to each other. The weather was sunny and warm. Reports of fishing were good; although the pike action was slow, the smallmouth bass were eager to take surface poppers. As we left the end of the paved road to take a barge and a boat to our island destination Cliffy and I were in paradise!

The selling point of Red Pine is the variety of places to fish. "Lady Evelyn" is the name of the main lake upon which Red Pine rests. It's dotted with other islands and mainland inlets with miles and miles of shoreline and all types of bottoms and depths. We heard about a brook trout lake called "#11" on one of the islands and decided to try our luck.

That morning, it was so foggy even the birds were walking. We first had to take a 20-minute hike through a scenic wilderness of indescribable beauty and suddenly came upon the ten-acre, bowl-shaped, crystal-clear lake, loaded with frogs, grasshoppers and leeches. I thought I'd start with grasshoppers on the surface; but after an hour, I gave up.

I walked the shoreline, trying to figure out where the fish were. With the water so clear, it didn't take long to find them. On the right-hand side of the trail, I spotted some logs in the water;

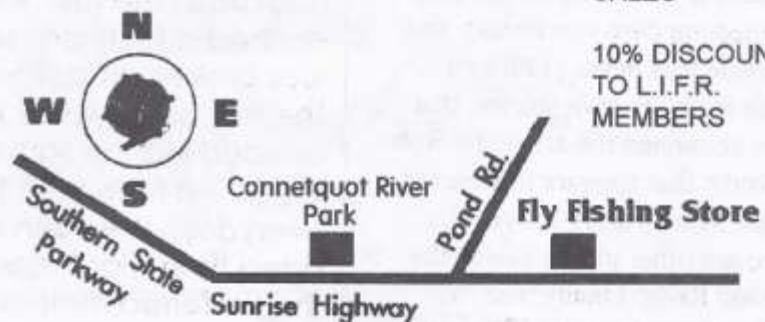
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Editorially

This month's cover is my holiday card to you, with the hope you had a good fishing season. As last month, this issue is made up mostly with your stories and this delights me; hoping that you keep up the good work. If you save the issues of the Flyrodder you may be aware that you have never received the August edition. It so happens that our printer had problems with his machine and by the time it was straightened out, the meeting date was history and the issue was never published. Aside from my own stories, that issue contained the article by Bob Molzahn that appears this month. Roger Mims's story proves that there are other places beside the Salmon River. Finally, Joe "Mr. Lucky" King (a new LIFR member who lives in Pennsylvania) tells us about a trip to Ontario, Canada, where he fly fished for Northern Pike. How was the fishing? Well, the article was forwarded by his wife Regina, along with a cover letter that also stated: *"Me? I just sat on a chair on the dock all week and read books. I also shot some pretty funny videos of Joe's friend Cliffy with a cardboard fish -- his "Catch of the Week"*

Crian

"PIERRE MARQUETTE SALMON"

by Roger Mims

My idea of Chinook salmon is like most fishermen associated with the Salmon River in Pulaski, NY. There are rows of anglers like a picket fence trying to snag them while we are trying to cast to Steelhead.

At the insistence of a friend from Michigan, I visited with him and fished the Pierre River from September 30th thru October 6th (1995). The results were dreamy.

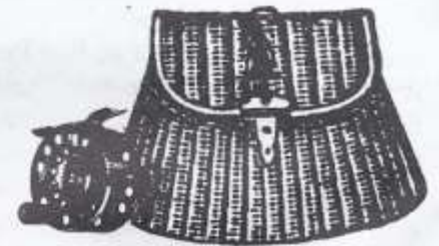
There were five members in our party. On the first day we hooked 102 salmon. We landed 58. The fish we landed were all hooked in the jaw. If we noticed a foul hooked fish, it was broken off deliberately. The rest of the week proceeded just the same way. We fished from 9am to 8pm everyday. We even managed three float trips. This is the preferred method. There is not any casting from the boat. One merely drops the anchor and steps over the side and wades. The river is only 2'-3' deep and 30' wide. There are approximately 15-18 miles of public water.

The fish ranged from 15-35 lbs. We were using 8 weight rods. Yes, we had 5 broken rods (all on fish). We all agree to leave the \$400.

rods home next year.

Egg patterns produced well in #'s 4&6. Peach and ink were the hot colors. I didn't fish any egg patterns. I did very well using #8 blue spey flies in the typical swing and sweep technique that makes spey fly fishing so exciting. I didn't need half the split shot the others were using. Oh yes, the split shot. Typically, 2-3 #7 split shot were used to get the fly to scrape the bottom. The fish hug the bottom and will not move 1" to take anything.

These were "Green" fish right out of Lake Michi-



gan. An average of 10-15 minutes was needed to subdue them. Also, your partner was needed to help beach the fish. A 36' diameter net wouldn't fit in my suitcase. I felt funny bringing a large net as carry-on baggage on the plane.

This was the only fishing trip I can recall that I was literally "tired" of catching fish and looked forward to coming home.

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The Rock Gives Up Its Secret

by Bob Molzahn

Some people call it Allan's Rock. It is a huge rounded boulder about the size of two Volkswagen Beetles joined at the undercarriage. Somehow it got itself square in the middle of the Ausable River probably 10,000 years ago after the glacial sheet that covered northern New York State receded and the last ice age came to an end. In the years since that time a five to seven foot wide and who knows how deep trench has been scoured out around Allan's Rock during many years of heavy water. Actually this story is about the trench and not the Rock. Of course, the trench wouldn't be there if it weren't for the Rock so I guess in effect it is about the Rock. So much for circular reasoning.

When the water starts to drop in the spring and the water warms the browns and brookies retreat to deepest, darkest hole they can find. The Rock qualifies as sort of an apartment house for these guys complete with cafeteria.

Cafeteria? The insects and hatches on the Ausable are nothing short of spectacular. According to some of the locals, since the spraying for black flies has been reduced, there has been a marked improvement in the numbers and significance of the hatches. The Hendrickson mayflies and green caddis in mid-May can be like a blizzard. Certainly an insect storm in which the fly fisher doesn't mind getting stuck in. The trout will rise eagerly to these emerging or dying insects and will feed with wild abandon if enough of them are on the water at one time. That's the way it was this past May.

My brother Dean, my regular fishing buddy Joe, and I had been fishing the new 5-mile stretch of No-Kill water on the Ausable all morning and early afternoon. We each had caught a few fish but all of them came hard. Although the trout hadn't been fished over much this early in the season they still acted finicky, even with hundreds of Hendricksons on the water. Around 4 o'clock we decided

a change in venue was in order. We drove the twelve or so miles downstream in record time, all the time wondering if we pulled up stakes too soon.

We knew from the day before that the Rock might hold a bunch of nice browns. We hoped also that the Hendricksons would be as thick downstream as they were upstream. Each of us knew where we wanted to fish and mentally prepared ourselves for how we might approach those areas so as to take

full advantage of whatever activity the River might present us.

None of us were quite prepared for what followed.

As all of us know, whenever you go on a trip you never know what is going to happen. More often than not, the fishing or rather the catching isn't as good as you would like it. Some days, your fishing buddy blows you out of the water. Even though you are standing right next

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Fishing!

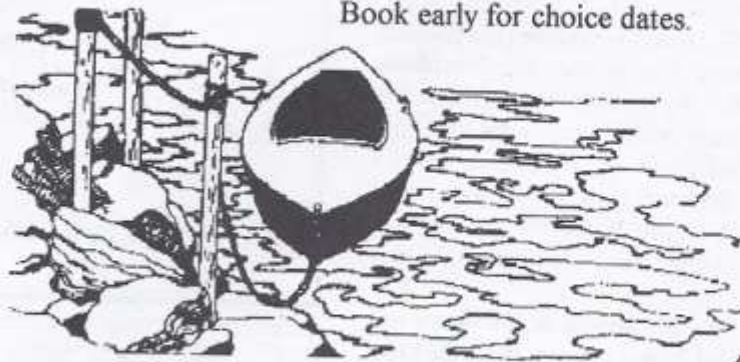
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THE ROCK...

to him using the same pattern and fishing it the same way. There is always the "you should have been here yesterday" story. The conditions are the same but where did the fish go, what happened to the hatch? You may fall in on occasion or even sprain your knee pretty badly as I did last October. We have all been through those scenarios and have all had our fishing egos shattered. A learning experience is the way I like to think of it. Another reason to try again on another day with a different fly or technique. Patience and the ability to take humiliation, wet clothes, and pain with a smile are virtues of all good fly fisherman.

We saw the Rock in the distance and slowed down to pull over on the side of the road. There was already a car there and a few guys rigging up their rods. I not sure if they were really watching the water because if they were they would have been moving a lot faster.

Dean, Joe, and I jumped out of the car and quickly scanned the water. **RISERS!** Damn! We grabbed our rods and threw on our gear on as we scrambled down the bank. No one else was in the water. We all knew exactly where we were going. Dean and I took the Rock. Joe made a dash downstream to the **TANK**, a dark hole of water, maybe 20 feet in diameter just above a gravel bar. It too held fish. Boy did it!

I was stripping the line off my reel as I waded in downstream from the Rock and got ready to flip it upstream to get enough line out so I could cast. I made the first flip and to my surprise a chunky 14-inch brown took my Hendrickson sparkle dun. Meanwhile the Rock and the entire riffle around the rock was alive with trout, greedily feeding on Hendrickson mayflies. Heads were coming up all over.

Pinch me. Did I die and go to heaven.

Within 15 minutes I had landed my seventh brown. All were 13 to 17 inches. Dean was also catching fish regularly and every time I looked downstream to where Joe was fishing his rod was bent over as well. This frenetic pace continued for at least another hour. The other fisherman on the bank and upstream saw what was going on and also moved in to get a piece of the action. We worked every fish that rose and every fish that rose took our

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flies! Some of the big brutes broke us off as they dashed around a rock. We missed and tagged a lot. Joe was able to land a 19-incher after it took him a hundred feet downstream. It was one of those days; We were the lucky ones and we were going to make the best of it.

We fished the Rock and the Tank well into the evening and then moved about a quarter of a mile upstream. Joe and I caught a few more fish in another favorite spot called Three Birches and pulled out

of the water at dark. The three of us brought 78 trout to our nets that day. What could be more perfect.

We shook hands in the truck and congratulated each other on the job we did. We knew that another day like this one would be a long time in coming.

Sleep came easily to us that night. Memories of that day, of feeding trout, Allan's Rock, the Tank, whining reels, the Ausable, and good friends will haunt our dreams for many years to come.

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and all around the logs were the nicest brook trout I'd ever seen.

After two hours of throwing woolly buggers in every color I owned, I still hadn't caught a fish. So, what started out to be easy found me digging in all my fly boxes for 'the right stuff.' I had one chance left and tried fishing a stonefly nymph deep. Every once in a while there was a slippery rise, and I knew the fish were feeding on something. But what? You've probably figured out by now that I got skunked on #11 Lake. But what a place—with nobody else except Cliffy and a pair of loons to witness my frustration!

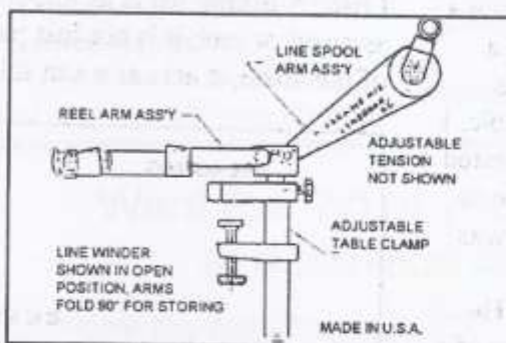
Back on Lady Evelyn Lake, the pike were not where they classically should have been. We were able to catch and release some nice -sized ones in the daytime, using spinning tackle and hardware, and my hopes were high for evening fishing. I thought that with the cover of the setting sun and cooler temperatures, the pike might be tempted to come to the surface for a fly; and I was absolutely right!

Like I said, Red Pine has a variety of places to fish. The owner told us about Sugar Lake, renowned for great smallmouth fishing; so, after picking up the 2-horse gas motor, we headed off on another expedition. Sugar Lake was only about a two-mile hike; and when you're carrying the outboard motor, life cushions and lunch, you only take what tackle you think you'll need. The steel leader was left behind because we were only after bass-

A 14-foot boat is always waiting out on the lake. The day was a little windy but otherwise picture-perfect. We first tried for bass around the rock drop-off, but this resulted in only one small bass for Cliffy. Working the shoreline, we started casting into the grass-filled shallow bays. The first pike came as a surprise. With no steel leader, he made short work of cutting through the tip-pet. Now the fun began. I was determined to land a pike with no steel leader.

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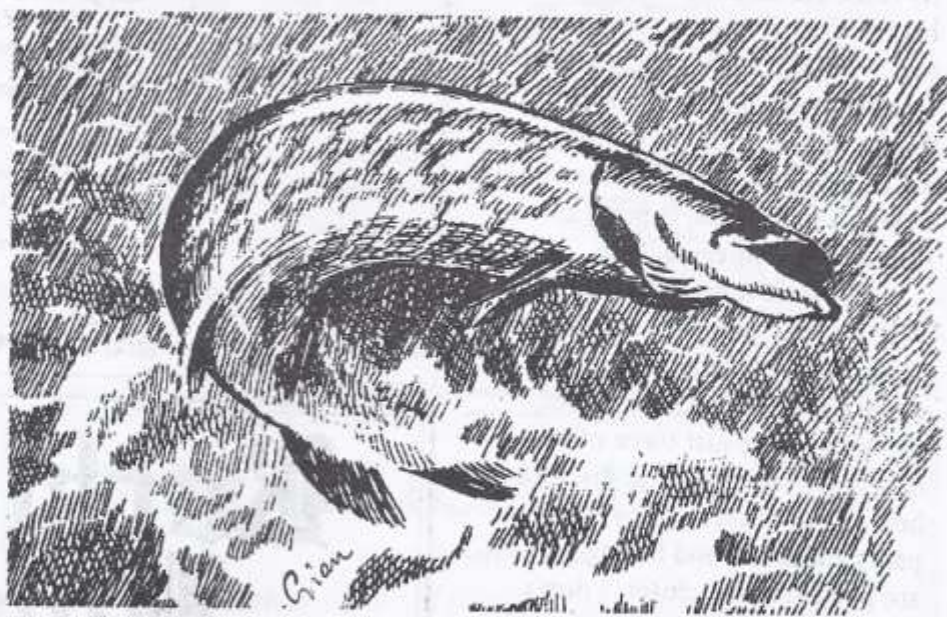
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*"Seeing a two-foot pike come completely out
of the water and turn and grab my fly will always
be etched in my mind."*

I learned something that day. When pike are hooked in shallow water, they run for deep water. The bay the pike was in was narrow; and with the boat anchored at its opening, a hooked fish would run straight at the boat at full speed. The slack line he left me with inevitably got caught on something in the boat and broke me off. The

pike were all in the shallow, grassy areas. After losing several popper flies, I finally landed a 25" pike. On the way back to our cabin, all we talked about was going back to Sugar Lake, making sure that we'd bring our steel leaders.

That night, a storm came up, and the cold wind and rain marked the

How to Get a Fishing Hat

by Gian Padovani

Years ago while I was editing Paumonok, Long Island's TU newsletter, I received a call from a member who wanted to place a personal ad to sell five fly rods. Since the prices were reasonable, I told him that I would be interested in buying one of them. I drove to his house, examined what he was selling and asked him why he wanted to dispose of the lot. He replied that he didn't need any of those particular ones, since he owned at least another thirtyfive fly rods! He actually took me into his "den" to show me the collection. I could hardly believe that anyone could amass so many pieces of one item. As I reflected, I asked myself why then I was buying another rod, since I already owned three of them.

With me it doesn't even stop with fly rods and since I have many appeals I own many pieces of many items. Cameras, watches, and knives, are just three of my other interests. I hate to disclose how many T shirts, army surplus pants and shirts and fishing hats are packed in my closet. I don't know why I cannot resist buying just another one, but maybe a psychologist can forward me a plausible reason. Am I, along with so many others, somewhat crazy?

What It is crazy is the fact that with so many items in each category, I always end up using the same one, or what I refer to, as "My Favorite."

I own fly rods which were hardly fished, cameras with shutters that weren't tripped in years,

T shirts that were worn once, and hats that...well, hats are unique in that they do not just have to fit but they must look just right. Interestingly, I usually never put on a hat even if the temperature goes way down, but I always wear one while I fish. A fishing hat is as important as a rod or reel; it is not just part of the attire, it acts as a sun shield,

it keeps the rain off the face and, most importantly, it can prevent a fly from penetrating on the head, after a bad cast. It so happen that I like the ubiquitous caps (one size fits all) as our own club headgear, but I just hate the way they fit on my head. I usually get these hats because, like patches, they adver-

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Fishing Hat from page 8

tise your interest, places you have visited and so on. Predictably, after one wear I stock them in a bag, never to wear them again. I also like western and outback styled hats but these too, do not fit ME like I wish they did. Let's face it; I just don't look like Clint Eastwood or Mel Gibson. These hats are also quite expensive and this reason has curtailed my collection of them. I do like the army surplus caps and occasionally I wear them while I fish. The drawback is that they are not as effective against the rain as those with brims, and make you look as if you were a Castro's guerrilla.

So, what is my favorite hat? Years ago Dan Van Buskirk decided it was time he bought himself a new hat and this he did. He probably was going to dump the old job, but since he knows that I go to garage sales and that I generally don't dress like Beau Brummel, (he told me that my usual attire reminds him of a third country's soldier of fortune,) he asked me if I wanted it. He needn't have asked. (Another friend once mentioned that I am so...cheap, that if I find an aspirin on the floor, I'll bang my head against a wall!) Anyway, I accepted and to my delight, it fits perfectly. It is an old hat, sort of a cross between a cowboy-outback-explorer affair. It looks like it has had a tough life and it sports discoloration stains and an intriguing wisp of mildew and perspiration. Now it is decorated with many colorful hat pins, which I also collect, and it is definitely ME.

It is indeed, my favorite hat.

1995 AWARDS Reported by Dan Van Buskirk

The LIFR Annual Dinner was held on November 4th. and a good time was enjoyed by all who attended. Everything was terrific including the entertainment provided by the DJ; in fact the lively music attracted couples from other parties to join in on the fun and dancing.

This year's awards were given to

the following members:

Member of the Year: Herb Schneiderman

Achievement Awards: Jerry Berkson, Perry Monitto and Walter Thomas Jr.

Acknowledgement Awards: Al Westbrook, Herman Abrams and Gil Padovani.

Past President Award: Paul McCain

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CONNETQUOT RIVER CLUB FISHING TRIPS

In response to the very heavy demand for the limited spaces available for our Mondays Connetquot R.S.P. trips, the following guidelines are in effect: Members attending the meetings have First Priority, followed by mail-ins residing beyond Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx. Finally all others as chronologically received. If you don't get on the list, your check will be returned.

Standard park rules apply, and a valid NYS fishing license is a must. The following LIFR rules are in effect:

Reservations for 32 anglers per session, 64 for both sessions. The price for each session is **\$12.00** Checks payable to L.I.F.R., P.O. Box 8091, Hicksville, NY 11802 by the second Wednesday of each month (Club date)

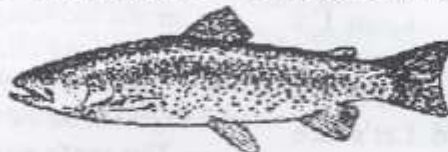
For the morning session be at the park by 7:10 a.m. Cancellations **MUST** be made by 7:00

p.m. the Sunday before the session.

Checks sent in before the first day of the month for which the deposit is sent, will be returned. **NO ADVANCE RESERVATIONS !!!**

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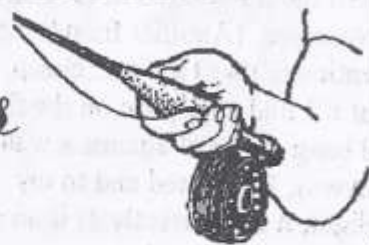
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STEEL LEADER from page 7

end of summer for the Near North, lowering the lake temperatures by 10 degrees. Everything was different the next day. The bass in Lady Evelyn Lake had lockjaw, but the pike were back and, that evening, quite hungry. It took me a while to learn not to set the hook as soon as I could see the fish. I waited until the fish came down on the fly and actually had it. Seeing a two-foot pike come completely out of the water and turn and grab my fly will always be etched in my mind. With a little patience, I was able to land, photo and release a 28" pike!

The next day was a gem with blue skies and mild temperatures. Off we went to Sugar Lake with high hopes and plenty of steel leader. The storm that made pike fishing in Lady Evelyn Lake so good had the opposite effect on Sugar Lake. No pike could be coaxed from the grass, but the smallmouth bass were hungry. I was able to land an 18" smallie. It's like that sometimes, but that's what makes fishing so interesting.

Back on Lady Evelyn Lake, there was a report of large bass in an area called "North Arm." With our trusty map and full tank of gas, off we went looking for them. Forty-five minutes later, we came to the spot marked on the map. We started fishing, but the wind began blowing so hard, the anchor couldn't hold bottom. Our trip out took 45 minutes to accomplish, but it took an hour and a half for our return. The hot chocolate back at the cabin never tasted so good! All told, the Near North was quite an adventure. The fishing was good, but the catching was a little slow. I'll definitely go back.

My wife said she'd like to return as well. Perhaps that was the biggest surprise of all!



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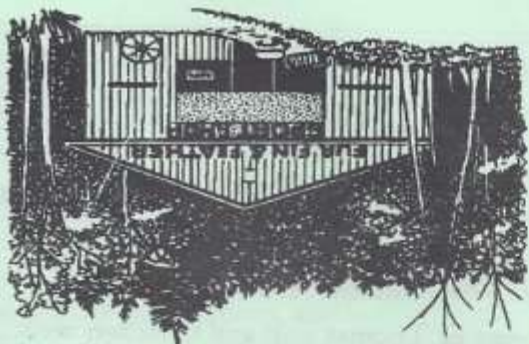
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