

TRIPPING--MY VIEWS
by Wayne Towne

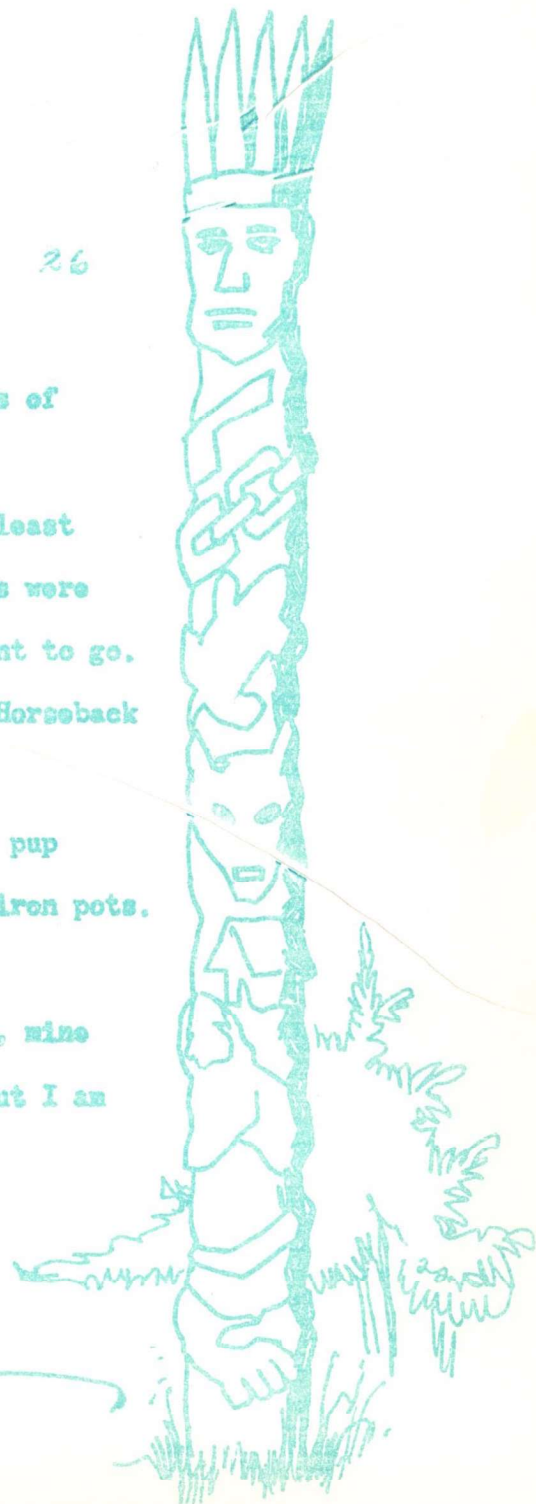
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We tried so many things this year that it had to be a good season. The sixth week we had 97 boys on some kind of a trip. We traveled 30 miles of river and thousands of miles of highway.

It was my intent that every boy have the opportunity to sleep out at least once to see if he would like it. On this we did not score 100%. Some boys were ill when their trip went out and had to be left behind. Others did not want to go. The teepee offered many boys the opportunity to use their sleeping bags. Horseback overnights were the experience for others.

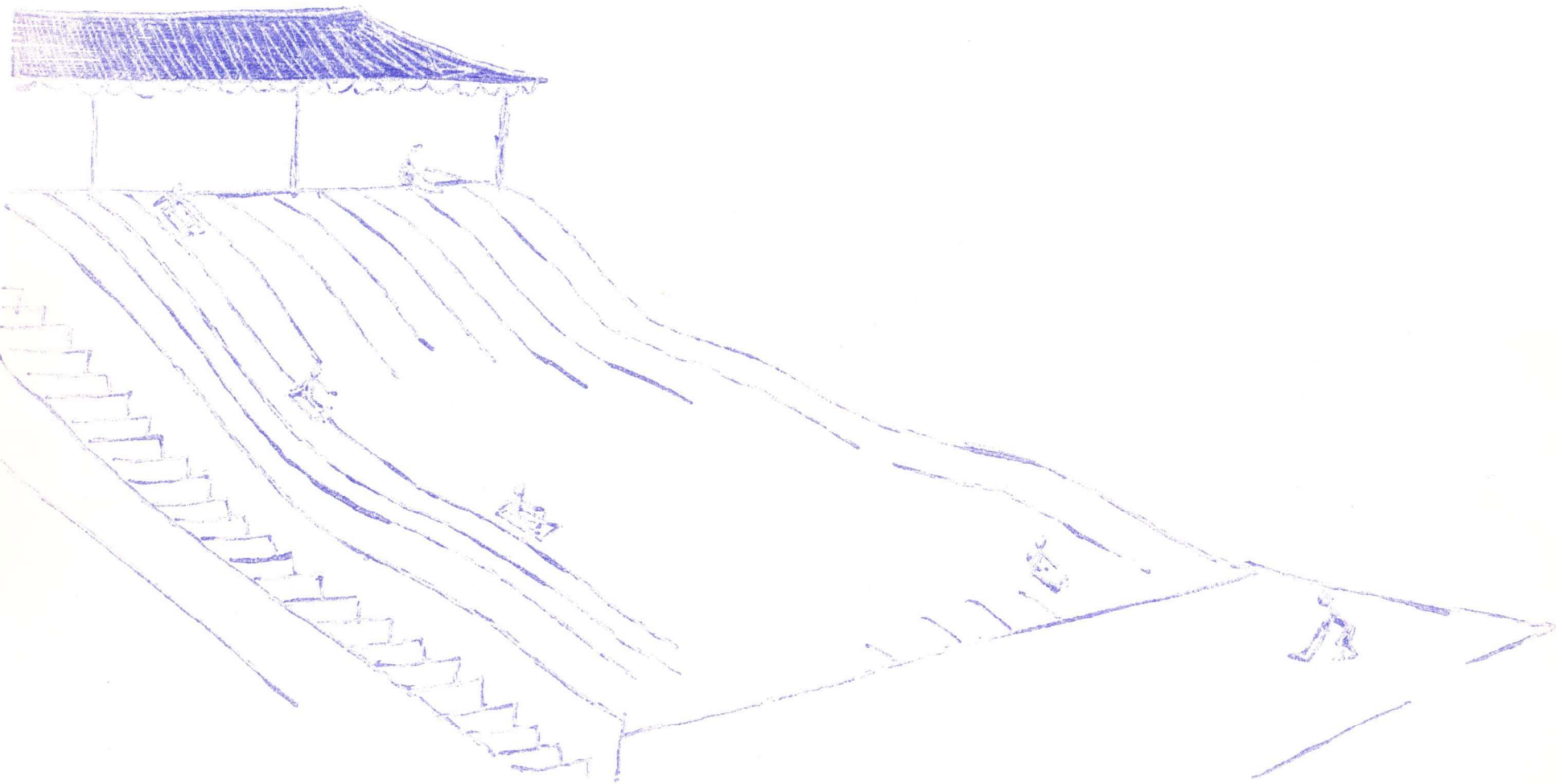
During the summer we slept in lean-tocs, umbrella tents, baker tents, pup tents, and the teepee. We cooked on grates, in the fire, and in big, black iron pots. The Crystal River was navigated in canoes and in inner tubes.

This summer was most enjoyable for me because of the fun of discovery, mine the joy of watching *Campers* grow. I am tired and will take a week to rest, but I am disappointed that we did not have twice the trips.



CAMP CRAFT

Wisconsin Dells



EARLY BIRD

The Early Bird Trip is a trip for second year campers and up who have signed up early for camp before December 15. This years Early Bird was a three-day sightseeing trip to the Wisconsin Dells.

August 3, we arrived at our camp site, ate dinner (the meals on the trip by the way were excellent), and went to the go-carts and the giant super slide. The super slide is a big slide that you slide down. You go down on a canvas bag. The slide was new for most campers. After the slides and go-carts, we returned to camp and hit the sack.

On August 4, we woke up, ate breakfast, and went on the Duck rides. A Duck is an amphibious vehicle. On the Ducks we went down the Wisconsin River and saw some fascinating landmarks. We saw rock formations and old statues from Chicago. On the land ride we went up and down steep hills and went fast into the water. The Ducks were very interesting and exciting. After the Ducks we went back to the camp, ate lunch, and then went to the Baraboo Circus World Museum. There we saw live animal shows, saw the history of the circus, saw old clown uniforms, and went to a circus show. The circus museum was a very interesting show. After the museum we went to the Devils Lake Beach. The beach is very nice. It has a sand bottom, and the water is always nice.

By the lake there is a refreshment stand and a little souvenir shop. When we were finished swimming, we returned to camp, ate dinner, and then went to what is probably the biggest attraction in the Wisconsin Dells--the Tommy Bartlett Water Ski Show. There we saw slalom skiing, barefoot, trixt, jump, and other fascinating skiing events. While there we also saw parachuting and triok boat rides. After the skiing there was a Tahitian dance and drum show with a beautiful light show. The Tommy Bartlett Water Show was a great deal of fun.

On August 5, we went to the Devils Lake Beach for another swim, then ate lunch, and spent the afternoon in Fort Dells. Fort Dell is like an old-fashioned fort from the Civil War Era. We went in a model gold mine; went on train rides, boat rides, and horse rides; we also saw an old model jail, an old time bridge, and a fantastic horror house. Fort Dells was an enjoyable way to spend an afternoon. After we left Fort Dells, we ate at an A & W and returned to camp.

All in all, this years Early Bird was an enjoyable one for everyone.

THE TEEPEE

Across the road from the mess hall there is an oblique-looking structure commonly and affectionally called the "Teepoo." Every boy in camp has an opportunity at one time or another to spend the night in the teepoo.

In order to spend the night there, at least two campers must sign up for the night they want to spend and must have a brave or counselor to spend the night with them. Then, with a sleeping bag and five or six cans of OFF, each is ready for the night. Many boys assisted in the building of the teepee in 1968 and have thoroughly enjoyed using it this summer.

CAMPING AT THE OLD BEACH

This year as never before, camping at the Old Beach zoomed into popularity. Each cabin had an opportunity to sleep at the Old Beach under the stars (but, of course, in the tents.) Each trip was conducted by the individual counselors and the honorable trip director, Wayne Towne. The trips were satisfactory to the campers but especially to the younger ones.

Each cabin had the chance to cook out both supper and breakfast. Some tents had a few spiders in them, and these boys had the opportunity to attract mosquitoes to satisfy the dietary needs of the spiders.

In retrospect, those who suffered most seemed to have been the counselors-- the spiders didn't seem to mind one bit!

CRISTAL RIVER TRIPS

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Crystal River meant many things this year. For cabins one through six, it was an overnighiter beside a swift-moving stream. For other campers it was the signal for a fifteen-mile canoe trip. Then later in the season it was a three-mile inner tube trip through some very mild rapids.

The adventures of seeing Kingfishers, Cranes, deer, fish, and turtles along the banks made the canoe trips very popular. The many swarms of deer flies and mosquitoes added movement to the trips. The swiftness of the current made the trips relaxing to even the laziest camper or counselor.

For the youngest camper strapping on a life preserver and riding an inner tube about 200 yards in the current caused thrills and spills. When it came to grilling his own hamburger or frying his first egg, each boy was a chef. More than once a charred hamburger or a "runny" egg was "Just the way I like it."

When the wild chipmunks and squirrels scampered by, "There goes a bear," could be heard from inside certain tents. Local dogs became wolves if they chose to bark at the moon. Once a raccoon raided the campsite and no one saw it until our bread was gone.

The brave ones took to inner tubes and floated through the rapids for three miles of charted waters. The trip took two hours. All you had to do was sit on/or lie across the tube and glide along. At the end of the trip there was always, "That's great."

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EAGLE RIVER

The Eagle River trip is one of the most popular trips. We camp on a high bluff overlooking the Wisconsin River. The site is beautiful and rather bug-free because of the breezes from the river and Pickeral Lake.

This year we caught a large number of perch. Gary Baier being the most expert followed by Chris Wool. Harold Jesser caught the only game fish, a small Northern Pike. Dennis Cole surprised everyone by catching a large perch in the swimming area with his bare hands. Truly, several big ones did get away.

No Eagle River trip is complete without the trip to Zempelman's Ice Cream Parlor. Here are sundaes and sodas like you have never seen before. The fudge is so good you drive out of your way to get one. Did we all visit Zempelman's?? Also, we never miss seeing a movie while there. This year we saw McKinnan's Gold, a western which we thought was fairly good.

As we said good-bye to Eagle River, we vowed to be back another year.

NATURE OVERNIGHTERS

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The nature overnigheters were for the boys in cabins one through six. For five nights, eight boys and Wayne went to Wayne's farm to discover edible plants that grow wild. The boys ate clover blossoms, wild berries, wild grain, and wild peas. One group found some ground cherries and ate them--ugh, are they sour!

Wayne told us scary stories and when a deer looked in our tent, we jumped. It was a great trip, and we all cooked our own food.

