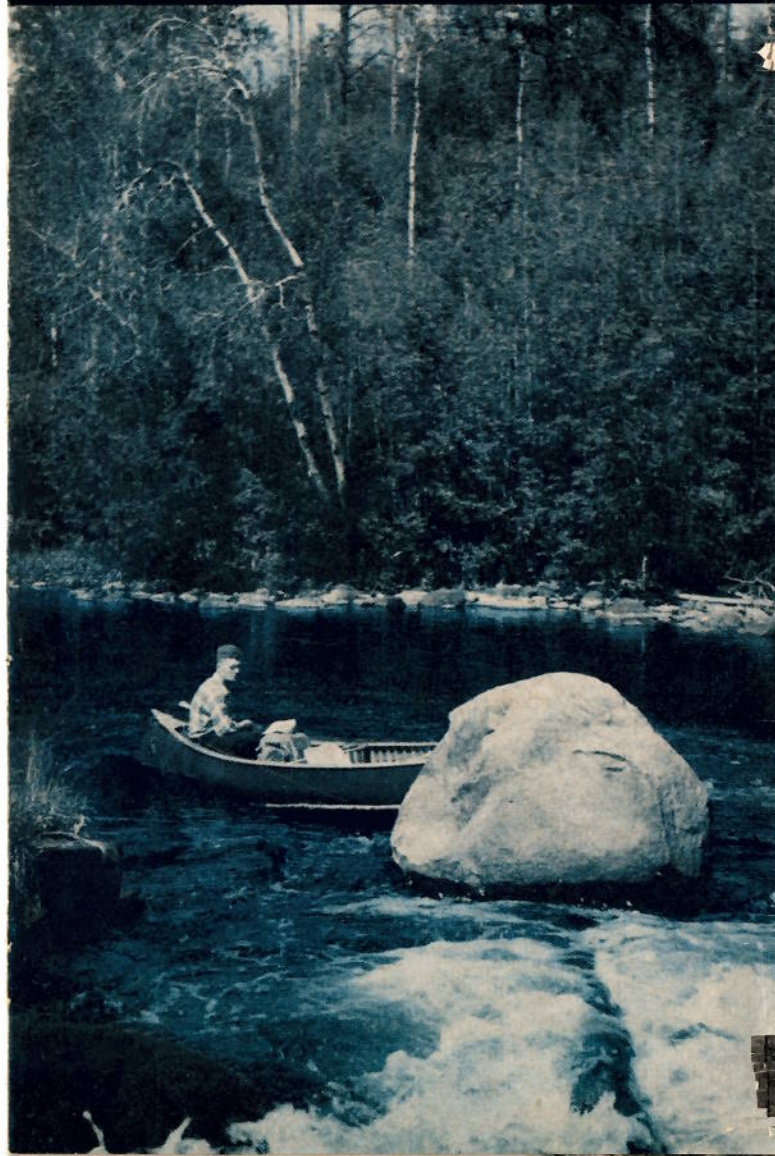


*Manitoba*

FOR

*Canoeing*



# FOR A REAL HOLIDAY—TRY

# Manitoba!

A Few Suggested  
**CANOE TRIPS**  
in Manitoba

Maps Available at Surveys  
Branch.



## INTRODUCTION:

Manitoba with its hundreds of sparkling lakes and rivers makes one of the most attractive spots on the North American continent for the sportsman interested in canoeing.

For many years the only mode of rapid transportation settlers had with the outside world was through use of canoes. In the days gone by the voyageurs would come down from the fur-rich northlands with their massive canoes laden with prize pelts shortly after the spring break-up, and make their return journey bearing the season's supplies.

Today, though Manitoba has 27,000 square miles of water surface, little commercial river traffic exists—but the romance lingers and hundreds of ardent canoeists paddle the waterways of the old fur traders.

For every type of paddler, Manitoba has an answer—from short excursions down the famed Red River, to lengthy, adventure-laden trips through the Whiteshell Provincial Forest Reserve and points further north. Some of these trips should only be undertaken under supervision of a qualified guide, for much of this rugged land is as yet unexplored and uninhabited. However, for the experienced canoeist, the sky is the limit!

Within this pamphlet are described and noted a few of the most popular canoe routes—routes exceeding any-

thing you have ever seen for sheer beauty and scenic splendor. In most cases you can drop a lazy hook and treat yourself to a fresh fish dinner. You will see wild life, sparkling streams, and scenes splashed from Nature's unspoiled paintbrush, great lakes, turbulent waters; you will glimpse some of Manitoba's vast natural resources, still untouched; you will find here at last you are, "Inside the Rim of Adventure!"

## RED RIVER-LAKE WINNIPEG

From Winnipeg a number of short trips can be made along the historic Red River. These trips can be made in a day or two depending upon the amount of energy expended by the paddlers. The Winnipeg, Kildonan, and Y.M.C.A. Canoe Clubs allow tourists to use their docks.

Paralleling the Henderson Highway, the Red River-Lake Winnipeg route takes you down the river 17 miles to the locks at old St. Andrews rapids where a unique experience will be in store—the locks will be opened on request allowing this ancient portage to be made in truly modern style. Here you will pass also the old Lower Fort Garry and century-old St. Andrews church, first stone church in Western Canada, and the old "seigneuries" of the first Red River settlers still fronting the river.

Further along one sees the town of Selkirk, home port of many of Lake Winnipeg's commercial fishing fleets which now traverse the waters where in 1738 Sieur de la Verendrye blazed the first route.

Beyond Petersfield and Netley Creek the Delta breaks up the land and river into a thousand different canals before taking you into the huge expanse of Lake Winnipeg. Care should be taken in following the proper channels through this mysterious marsh vastness and the canoeist should be provided with detailed maps.<sup>1</sup> Weather information can be obtained at the mouth of the main channel. One should not venture on the lake if a storm is pending and in all cases you should keep close to the shore lest you are blown out to the lake.

From the mouth of the Delta you can proceed up the lake to any of the pleasure beaches along the south end of the lake or a little further northwest to Gimli, Manitoba's lake fishing town.

<sup>1</sup>Maps may be obtained from the Surveys Branch, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Legislative Building, Winnipeg.



## WHITESHELL-CADDY LAKE 105 MILES RETURN

This route begins at tranquil, poplar bordered Caddy Lake on No. 1 Highway and continues north where the Canadian Pacific Railway tunnel, blasted through solid rock, allows passage. Emerging into South Cross Lake a sharp lookout should be kept for a reef about three-quarters of a mile from the tunnel. The lake narrows down to river width after which the Canadian National Railway tunnel, identical with that of the C.P.R., is reached. This tunnel leads to North Cross Lake at the end of which are two portages. The west one is the better of the two, being scarcely more than a "lift-over."

Keeping to the west shoreline for another half mile, and passing through a narrows, Sailing Lake, about three miles long, is entered. At the north end of the lake the water narrows down to river width and opens

into Mallard Lake—a wild rice lake very appropriately named, for here the wild ducks abound.

The route from Caddy Lake to Mallard Lake is very lovely, with high, rocky shorelines and magnificent stands of timber, mostly jackpine, bordering the waterway.

At the north end of Mallard Lake a portage is necessary to the Whiteshell River. The scenery changes here, the low shoreline being fringed with tall grasses, back of which are massed heavy stands of poplar.

About five miles north the "forks" is reached—the left hand branch flowing into Lone Island Lake, the right into Little Whiteshell Lake. This lake narrows down and joins the south of Whiteshell Lake, about five miles long north and south, and with numerous islands and good shores for camping.

Two portages are necessary to reach Crow Duck Lake, one into a small lake about 300 yards wide, then

a "lift-over" into Crow Duck Lake. At the north end is a short portage into a small stream which flows into Eaglenest Lake (Winnipeg River) on the Manitoba-Ontario boundary.

On the turn leading west to Lamprey Falls considerable swift water, swirling currents and eddies are encountered. This is one of the wildest parts of the river, dotted with many reefs and islands, and here the observer may glimpse deer and perhaps a black bear. At night the howl of the timber wolf coupled with the rush of water bring close the thrill of camping in the wilderness.

No difficulty is liable to be experienced at Lamprey Falls as the backwater from the dam at the Pointe du Bois power plant has flooded out the falls almost entirely and a portage is not necessary except when the water is low. The portage is on the right bank.

A portage is made at Pointe du Bois a short distance from the control gates on the right hand side of the river. Groceries and supplies to replenish a dwindling stock may be obtained in the town. Pickerel fishing near "The Point" is excellent and if the canoeist has time it is well worth while to inspect the City of Winnipeg's power house.

Continuing the journey below the power house, fast water has to be shot and in a short distance the Slave Falls dam comes into view. A portage is made here between the two spillways to the left of the power house. The right portage at the diversion dam should be avoided as the water is treacherous.

After paddling about an hour another portage is necessary at Sturgeon Falls, this time on the right side of the river, and into Jessie Lake. A short paddle along the left shore of the lake and the route continues once again on the Whiteshell River. Many rapids and falls are encountered on this return journey and entail much hard work, but one is well repaid by the magnificent scenery, the sense of well-being and complete relaxation experienced after a hard day's work.

On reaching Betula Lake the course continues in a southeasterly direction to the river. Rapids are encountered some three miles along the river and a portage is necessary. Continuing through White Lake and still following the left shore, one beholds beautiful Rainbow Falls in their picturesque setting of rocky, boulder-strewn shores. A forestry tower is situated just below the portage and above the bridge. Two more rapids are encountered before passing into Jessica Lake.

A short paddle on the left shore of the lake brings the canoe once more into the Whiteshell River where an uninterrupted course is followed to Lone Island Lake. A straight course across the lake to the southeast brings the canoeist to the river a short distance from the "forks" and the reverse of the journey out.

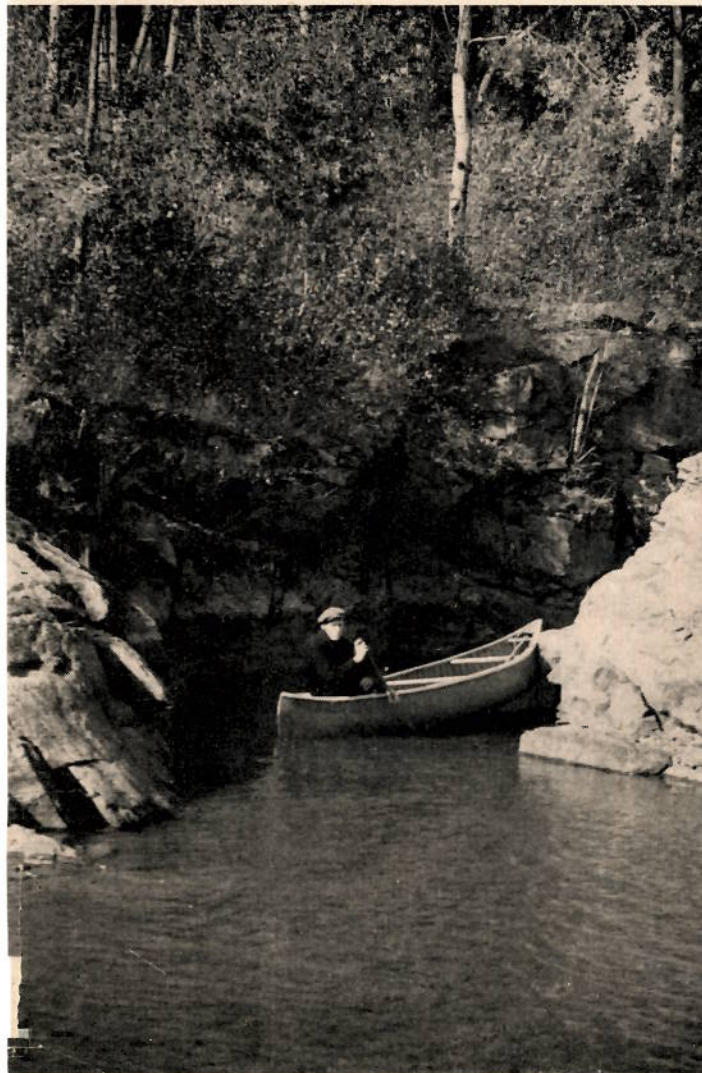
The Whiteshell beckons to those who seek the peace and serenity of its forest-glades, its dappled waters, unexploited forests and precipitous cliffs—scenery of every type to delight the heart of those forest lovers who ply their way by paddle.

## NORWAY HOUSE - YORK FACTORY 350 MILES

The Hayes River, along an avenue of communication between Lake Winnipeg and Hudson Bay, opens to the adventurer and sportsman a never-to-be-forgotten experience of rigorous, exciting days over the virgin and untrammelled territory of Manitoba's northern adventureland.

Norway House, situated on Playgreen Lake, may be reached in summer by boat from Winnipeg via "The Inland Sea," Lake Winnipeg. As there is no point along the course where supplies may be obtained it is important to obtain sufficient provisions to last until York Factory is reached. Guides should also be arranged for before the journey is begun.

Leaving Norway House, the route crosses Little Playgreen Lake and enters the east channel of the Nelson



River, which has an average width of one mile and is studded with islands. Seventeen miles downstream the Sea River Falls, a chute having a drop of about four feet, are encountered.

Many of the rapids occurring on the way down river may be run but it is necessary on the return trip to resort to tracking and portaging.

Five miles below the falls The High Rock is reached and the route deviates from the Nelson, turning east by the Echamamish, a small, marshy stream flowing from Hairy Lake. Crossing Hairy Lake and continuing eastward, two small dams having a drop of one foot each are reached. The Echamamish terminates abruptly at Painted Rock, 28 miles in a straight line from the Nelson River. The Echamamish portage is peculiar in that it is over a low rock which forms the watershed between the east and west channels of the stream. The Cree origin of the word signifies a channel in which the water flows both ways.

Again launching the canoe, the river is followed for 15 miles, through Robinson Lake to the Hayes River and the most formidable portage on the route, one of over 1,300 yards. The trail is wide and smooth, however, and avoids a drop of 45 feet in the river.

Seven miles below Robinson portage the river enters a narrow, nearly straight ravine, through which it flows for seven miles to Pine Lake, two rapids occurring in the interval. The river is again followed to Windy Lake where the course leaves at the northwestern extremity. From here the river runs northwest almost at right angles to its usual course, and at the end of four miles falls into a marsh at the head of Oxford Lake. Here a chute called Waipinaipinis, the Angling Place, with a descent of six feet is encountered. The marsh opens by a narrow straight into the southwest arm of Oxford Lake.

About 30 miles long and nine in width, Oxford Lake is subdivided by long points, and contains many islands. At the northeastern extremity of the lake, on a rising peninsula, Oxford House is situated. The extension of the lake beyond this is called Back Lake. From here the river runs northeast for 11 miles, Trout Falls being portaged just before entering Knee Lake.

Knee Lake, 40 miles long, consists of two principal expansions, connected midway between the inlet and outlet by a narrower portion about nine miles in length and running at right angles to the main portions of the lake. The maximum width is six miles, and the whole lake is dotted with islands, particularly in the central portion.

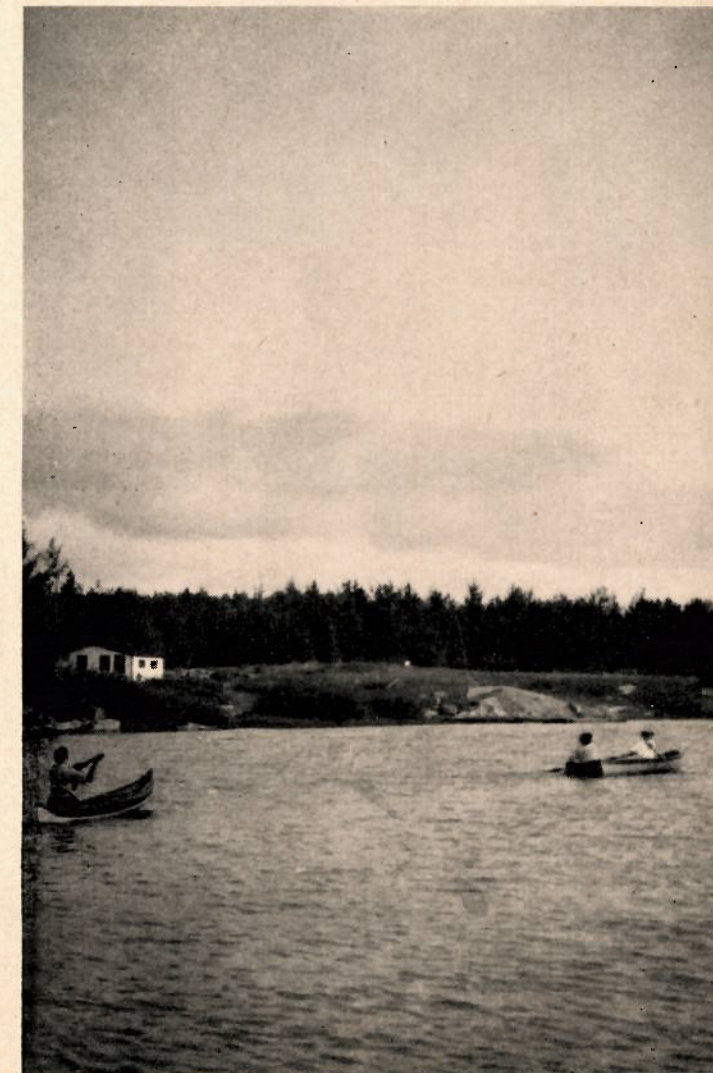
After 10 miles of river, Knee Lake discharges at its northeastern tip into Swampy Lake. A point of peat halfway down the northwest side of Swampy Lake gives it its name but the surrounding country, though low, is not swampy.

This is the last lake on the route and from here to York Factory the river curves in a north-northeasterly course, flowing for the first 19 miles through a labyrinth of islands. There is a considerable descent in this

portion of the river, which is broken by a great number of rapids. At the end of this stretch, clay banks appear on both sides of the river and continue all the way to the Bay.

"The Hill," four or five miles after this confluence of islands is passed, is an imposing and conspicuous landmark of gravelly earth nearly 400 feet high. Several rapids and chutes appear in the ensuing 13 miles of river, the last of these being known as The Rock, on account of an exposure of grey, rather coarse gneiss.

The character of the river changes at The Rock, and from that point downward no more rapids occur. Along the stream from The Rock to tidewater islands are almost absent. At tidewater, however, three islands in succession are passed and below this there is a chain of low islands near the southeast side. The stream is shallow at low water and runs with a swift current to tidewater, nine miles above York Factory.





**WINNIPEG - EMERSON — 70 MILES**

This delightful trip takes you down the verdant valley of the Red River to the American border, past lands rich with the aura of Indian legend and colored by the history of its hardy pioneers.

Past St. Norbert and St. Agathe with their imposing churches, monasteries and convents, the ferries which played such an important part in the traffic of the early-day settlers and still manned by Scotch half-breeds with such names as Mowatt, Sigler, Flett and Pruden, add a tangible link with the past.

Morris, seventeen miles down the river in one of Manitoba's fine agricultural districts, lends a different touch from the majority of towns along this route for here are represented a variety of nationalities.

At St. Jean Baptiste we are once again among folk whose early ancestors were among the country's first settlers. If one should stop here the French language would probably be more in evidence than the English.

On to Letellier, once an important gathering place for Indian warriors. A cairn marks the site of the war path of the Sioux Indians to Lake of the Woods. This was the earliest route to the west, being first used in 1733 by the French.

A camera should not be forgotten on this voyage for there are many beautiful panoramas as well as historic spots to be remembered and recorded on the trip between Winnipeg and our last stop, Emerson.

# Manitoba!

## CANADA'S ADVENTURELAND



➤ VACATION AREAS ➤

*For further information write*

### **BUREAU OF TRAVEL AND PUBLICITY** *Department of Industry and Commerce*

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