

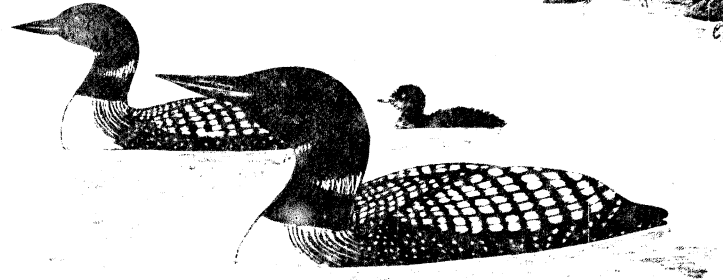
Summer 1962

# NORTH COUNTRY NOTEBOOK

by George Vukelich



**The First 100 Years:** The special section on Door County in this issue reminds us that a relatively inexpensive history of the peninsula area is available in the Centennial Issue of the Sturgeon Bay newspaper, **The Door County Advocate**. The issue was a full year in production and darn near outweighs the Sunday edition of the New York Times. Aunt Katherine reports objectively that the *Advocate* could put out another issue which included the stuff omitted from this one. "Of course," Aunt Katherine admits with a twinkle in her sharp school teacher eyes, "the things that they left out would make another **Peyton Place**."



**Fishing The Cribs:** It's not the easiest thing in the world to fish a strange lake for the first time and locate the most productive spots right off the bat. However, thanks to a fish management technique now being carried out in our northern lakes, even the occasional angler will be able to locate teeming schools with all the accuracy of a grizzled professional. As any resort owner knows, most northern lakes have a very adequate fish population, but the problem for vacationers unfamiliar with the lakes is to find a place where fish are congregating, waiting to feed. And that's where the new technique — **the fish crib** — comes in. A fish crib looks something like a small log cabin. It is constructed about eight feet square of cull, oak logs. Hundreds of these cribs were assembled on the ice last winter and sent to the lake bottoms. Conservation Department Fishery man **L. E. Morehouse** of Woodruff explains the purpose: "In two years or less, substantial congregations of pan fish move into the crib area, seeking protection from larger game fish and also attracted by small marine life stimulated by the cribs. Very excellent pan fishing, especially for bluegills is the common result. But an important offshoot of the program is the attraction of game fish to the same vicinity. The success of fishermen and the fish census taking skin divers at crib sites backs up Morehouse. Write to Conservation Department Area Headquarters at **Spooner** and **Woodruff** for detailed information on productive crib lakes in the north. You could also write to Frank Vukelich at Three Lakes, Wisconsin who personally sank a few king-size producers off his resort shore. He has poured so much timber into Big Stone Lake that the fish now live in trees, like squirrels. If you write to Frank, use my name, and you could mention that his son is cleaning tackle and baying at the moon.

## **A Few of The Old Indian's Favorite Fishing Holes:**

**\* Green Lake.** This is like inland deep sea fishing in Wisconsin's deepest lake. Star drags and lead-core lines in 200 feet of water for lake trout. Twenty pounders not uncommon and they get bigger. Motor trolling makes this a pleasant day's outing. All necessary gear can be rented dockside. All you need is a free day and sunglasses. Or a free day and rain gear.  
**\* Keshena.** The Menominee Indian Reservation, now Wisconsin's newest county, offers some of the finest trout fishing and unspoiled wilderness in the state. Brooks, rainbows and browns. The Menominees charge a daily fee for access to streams and lakes. Check before you wet a fly. And don't expect them to take baubles, bangles and beads.

**\* The Brule.** One of the world's storied trout streams just east of Superior. Canoe float trips of half or full day duration for big trout. Famous for its rainbows — the steelheads that commute in and out of Lake Superior. Ten pounds is not uncommon. Canoe carries two customers, guide in stern. You can forget the fly-rod, a spin rig will do. Guide will tell you how and also fix the shore lunch. Ask for George Sandman of Lake Nebagamon. He paddles well and cooks like your mother.

**\* The Three Lakes-Eagle River Chain.** The name is deceptive. There are 27 lakes in this chain with 777 miles of continuous shoreline. True, power boaters could drive the ardent fisherman buggy, but there are miles of sloughs and flowages where even the water skiers can't go. Muskellunge, northern pike, walleyes, bass, panfish, the works. A guide for a day, or the resort owner, will point out the productive sand and rock bars. The others you'll find on your own. Carl Marty's Northernaire sits on Deer Lake. A pleasant break in the fisherman's day. It makes you feel like a fresh water Hemingway when you toddle back to the boat and the luck is going good. You could spend a lifetime on this sprawling water and never really know it. Eddie Stanzil and Gene Step come as close as anyone.

This is by no means a guide to all the fishing water in Wisconsin. You can catch northern pike longer than your arm (with the fingers outstretched) practically under the shadow of the State Capitol in Madison. The places listed are only intended as indications of where the Old Indian migrates when the World-of-the-White Eyes leans hard against the teepee and the walls begin to close in. Men go fishing for many reasons. Some are fleeing the telephone. Others, the wife. But mostly it's not so much fleeing as it is wanting to find something again. A place where time sort of stands still. A Rod Sterling kind of place where you walk into a world that you knew as a kid and it's waiting and glad to see you. Anyway, the above mentioned places are those kind of places for us. Oh, don't misunderstand. There are fish in all of them. Big ones. Smart ones. Old, old ones. And we stalk them in deadly earnest and hope for the best everytime out. But really, catching them is the very least of it.

For the serious fishermen, maps of the water he is fishing are an invaluable guide. Survey maps of Wisconsin lakes are printed and distributed by **The Clarkson Map Company** of Kaukauna, publishers of special purpose maps in cooperation with the Wisconsin Conservation Department. A catalog and price list is available on request.