

Fall '75

Com-muni-cations



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MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRIP

The Mississippi River trip was a somewhat enduring trip for the students and staff that participated in it. The crew consisted of 14 students, Doug Berg, Lesley Seamans, and Susan Turnquist (student teacher). We paddled through pouring rain, wind, and cold weather to make it over such obstacles as Cass Lake. Because of the big waves and the strong winds to which most were inexperienced and unprepared for, the group decided to fall short of the schedule and camped half way across Cass. We finished Cass the next day and went through about 10 miles of marshy river that led us to Lake Winnibigoshish, which astonished most by its size. But we knew it had to be done, so we decided to dry off before attempting it. We started off again and made about half of the lake before we had to camp because of wind, rain, and waves. The next day proved to be even worse with bigger waves and stronger winds. We decided to have a lay-over day and see if it would blow over. We were busy drying clothes, getting wood and sterilizing water for drinking. The rain finally stopped late that afternoon, but too late to start out. So we waited for morning. We saw our first snow fall of the year that night about 9:00. We were all very excited. It snowed about 1 1/2 inches.

The lake looked pretty calm the next day and the crew set out in good spirits and laughter. We got about half way across the lake and the waves started to gain in size rapidly to about 4-5 feet high. We then knew we had to be serious. We tried not to panic when our canoes started to fill up with water, but even the experienced canoeists I know were a little frightened. After many problems we finally made the 12 mile stretch in a little over six hours of hell.

At the end of Big Winni was the beginning of the Mighty Mississippi which proved to be not too mighty this time of year. We endured about 30 miles of marshy river with floating bogs which were a bit tricky at times.

We averaged about 30 miles a day. Sometimes we would go 40 miles to get back on schedule, from the time we lost on Big Winni. Among other things, we experienced weather down to 14 degrees, which was cold to sleep in unless you had a good sleeping bag. But also there were warmer nights where some were tempted to sleep outside of their tents, and some did! We camped in whatever environment we could find, such as cow pastures, wayside rests or just a clearing along the river, and we hoped there were no farms and mad farmers around.

The group had quite an experience in Palisade in which a black lab followed our canoes along the river and started swimming after us for about 2 miles. We figured he was a stray and took him with us. We named him "Pal" (of course)--short for Palisade. Later we found he had been beaten or hit by a car because he was so sore, so he just duffed-out in Doug's canoe the rest of the trip recuperating. He finally pepped up a little, but when Doug brought him home he got worse and finally died, which saddened us all.

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In my opinion, the group had some experiences they probably won't ever have again. But then again, knowing the way some Mini-School people are, they will probably try it again. The trip consisted of 300 river miles and about 50 lake miles. The people that attempted this trip left Anoka with the great satisfaction of knowing they did it; they had reached their goal. Some had their doubts but all had a lot of hope, and together, we all made it. Some had fears for it was their first trip, but they had the reassurance of the people who knew what it was like and they helped them. By the end, they found out what a Mini-School trip was like and the result is that we made it!!!!

--Dave Sanko

Students on the trip:

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|---------------|-----------------|
| Jan Gunderson | Rick Berg |
| Terry Politte | Scott McPherson |
| Rick Rogney | Ted Pfiffner |
| Roger Rogney | Missy Quigley |
| Andy Korn | Rick Geyen |
| Dave Force | Brett Otterson |
| Dave Sanko | Steve LePage |

Life

Awakening. . . .
 Cold as the bitter rain falls outside,
 While my mind is still working and my thoughts are alive.
 As I opened the doors to my life you stepped inside,
 You helped me realize that life will pass me by,
 Reachout and slow it down,
 or sit back and wear a frown.
 Living without the world,
 Pretending you cannot see the beauty all around,
 and see that you could be.
 You've got to Reachout and take a chance,
 Reachout please take my hand.
 Discover who you are,
 Reachout no matter how far.

--Mike Rishavy

For the Love in my Dreams

You knew I loved you
 You read it in my eyes
 No matter how high
 You always saw through
 my disguise

 Your Sagittarian ways
 Were always just too kind
 My mind is too confused
 But its just what you would
 Like to find.

--Missy Quigley

Friends Are:

Friends are:
 Loving
 Warm
 Thoughtful and kind
 These four things you
 need for peace of mind.
 Without these things
 you cannot be.
 For friends are the ones
 who hold the key.

--Tandy Berg

Vo-Tech

Vo-Tech, or technically, Memm_in Technical Center, is a school of vocational learning. Vo-Tech offers many different courses, all on and about careers. Horticulture, building trades, commercial art and child development are just a small part of this well qualified and professionally staffed learning center. I would recommend it to anyone unable to afford college, because this opportunity is free for anyone under 21.

Classes in Vo-Tech can be boring, so one should really be serious about what they're doing. Take commercial art, for example. Many students think of learning to paint, and draw, on a higher scale. This is not what commercial art is. It's learning letter signs, both gothic and Roman, accurate perspective drawings, layouts, human face and figure, and charcoal drawing, among other things. But you really learn something. It's a big step, but if you're serious about your future, it's worth it.

--Leigh Farrell (Vo-Tech student)

What Mini-School Means to Me

This is my third year in the Mini-School program. Over that time, I have come to know the program quite well. I have found the program to be full of friendship, participation, and most important, communication.

In comparing the Mini-School program to regular school, I prefer Mini-School. I feel it offers a better learning experience in the manner of group participation and communication. Its trips program, for example, has got to be the best area of learning in the program. A canoe trip can teach you of life, survival, and history of our ancestors who lived the same way 200 years before. It builds mental and physical character beyond compare, for you are out challenging yourself with Mother Nature.

The student/teacher relationship has always amazed me. I feel this is an important part of the program. It is a person to person relationship, and this freedom allows for better communication for learning between student and teacher.

The program has social incentive in the way of various fund raisers for the program. For example, we have our own plant shop. The public is welcome to purchase various potted plants and terrariums. The proceeds go to the program.

I feel the all around communication and understanding of every student and teacher in Mini-School is the best learning opportunity for anyone.

--Brett Otterson

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Mini-School Fund Raiser

Win a Dayton's gift certificate. Mini-School is raffling off tickets for some lucky person, maybe you! The drawing will be held Dec. 19, donations are \$1.00. Tickets can be purchased from any Mini-School student. Prizes--1st prize: \$50.00, 2nd prize: \$25.00, 3rd Prize: \$15.00, 4th prize: \$10.00.

--Diane Smith

We Have a New Student Teacher in Mini-School!!!!

Her name is Susan Turnquist, and she's from St. Olaf College. She is helping in Randy's Social Studies class. Her first two weeks in Mini-School was spent on the Mississippi River Trip. The kids that went on the trip got to know and like her, as I'm sure everyone else has that know's her. We want to welcome Susan to the program and hope that she will like it as much as all of us do. She will be with us untill Christmas, so welcome Susan!!!

--Terry Politte

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Mini-School Reunion

Last week we had a small meeting to figure out some of the things we have to do. We have started to find a place where we can have it, and are now thinking of when. We are thinking of February or March. Lester has started to round up files of everyone that has ever been in Mini-School, which is going to be quite some list when done. It should be quite a reunion with many of the people that have been in Mini-School all in one room!!! We hope all will come to it. During the end of the month there will be a notice in the Mini office where you can write your name if you would like to help.

--Terry Politte

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Mini-School in Rochester

On November 6, four Mini-School students volunteered to go down to Rochester, Minnesota, for a teachers convention. Teacher, Nick Jambeck, took Sharon Vomhof, Kevin Schierman, Karen and Mike Rishavy down to Rochester at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 6.

We were all in good spirits, singing and laughing all the way down to Rochester. We arrived in Rochester at 10:00 a.m. and got settled in our room at the Kahler Inn Hotel. We didn't have anything to do that day so we all went out looking at the town.

Early Friday morning we all got up and ready for a big day. 9:00 a.m. we met with several teachers, student teachers, and students. We explained what Mini-School is, "in our own terms" and answered all their questions. At 10:00 a.m. we had another meeting and answered more questions. After all the meetings we were rated "10" on a 1-10 scale by Nick.

Although this was a business trip, each of us got to know and understand one another better and that's what Mini-School's about.

Thank you Nick.

--Mike and Karen Rishavy

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Berg Goes to Chicago

For those of you who did not know it, there is a National Center for Grading/Learning Alternatives. It is the business of this organization to know what alternative schools exist in the country, to know what these alternative schools do, and to encourage the development of alternative programs in public schools throughout the country. On November 15-16 this organization had a conference in Chicago. I attended this conference.

Before I went, I really did not know what to expect. I guess I envisioned a convention of hundreds of people. It turned out to be a much more intimate conference, 25-30 teachers, mostly on the high school level, mostly from the Detroit, Chicago, Omaha, and Cleveland areas. Since the group was small, we were able to get together in small groups and rap a lot about philosophy, curriculum, and, the main theme of the conference, "Creating Effective Alternate Learning Programs."

Because the conference dealt primarily with starting alternate programs, I found that in many ways I was educating the people who were there more than I was learning from any of them. Most of them were planning to start alternate programs in their schools or were in the process of starting one. They were dealing with problems that Mini-School had solved long ago. When they found out that Mini-School has been in existence for 6 years, and when they found out all the things that this program has done and is doing, they ~~got~~ ^{slightly} got pretty excited and pumped me for all the information they could. This was somewhat disappointing to me, in that I had hoped to learn more from this convention than I did, but, at the same time it was somewhat encouraging to see more evidence that Mini-School is one of the finest alternative programs in the United States and is considered so by the National Center for Grading/Learning Alternatives.

--Doug Berg

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Experience

Life is an experience filled by never-ending possibilities,
No time to fly nor to play,
But relax while the hellish beauties
caress your inner-bound soul.
Be sure not to touch the fountain
of roudness,
just eat from the seeds of fortune
"And then your experiencing the high
of experiencing."

--Bill Connors

Thoughts

Yesterday I sat and thought and I really wonder what will my life be like, when I grow older. I would like to have a different life but i can't seem to get that typical family life style out of my mind. I want to have love like no one else has. I want to be wanted not just needed. I want to find out how I really am. Instead of who I want to be. I wish I could be beautiful. I wish I could be so many things when I grow up. But I guess the best thing to be is myself and just myself.

--Barb Hanna

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Arena Scheduling

Arena scheduling has come to Mini-School. Even now, the words could draw some blank looks from students if they were asked to explain them. Essentially, arena scheduling is allowing the students to choose their Mini-School classes and teachers in the order they want. A class size limit of 20-27 is imposed on classroom offerings and 35-40 on recreation offerings.

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This new approach has had its share of frustrations due to the
bility of gym space at different hours, but as usual, ISP flexibility has
worked well within and around the mainstream classes. Reasons behind the
experiment were to allow students greater freedom in decision-making, en-
courage more involvement in recreation classes, and provide more alternatives
for students within the morning schedule. The most measurable area on the
success of the program has been in recreation. Here over twenty students are
involving themselves in floor hockey and close to forty participating in volley-
ball.

---Randy Nelson

The Mini-School staff has graciously prepared their Christmas gift lists
for all you students, to aid in your selection of presents for your wonderful
Mini-School teachers. Here 'tis:

- Nick: Mickey mouse T-shirt, expense paid trip to Davenport, Iowa, jewelry,
speedo swim suit, white jock socks.
- Berg: Lifetime membership in the SPC, one bottle of Ringnes Beer, a K-Mart
special, down earmuffs, free admission to the Mini-School reunion.
- Lester: A "Chunky" original, a penguin, a rubber ducky, a lock for the tele-
phone, a "Nerf" animal (an alligator).
- Hinda: Fun and excitement everyday in school, a green thumb, peace, love, .
tran utility, and a partridge in a pear tree.
- Randy: A hat made from Yak hair, a thousand smiles and good humor, patience.

HO! HO! HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!! HO! HO! HO!

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