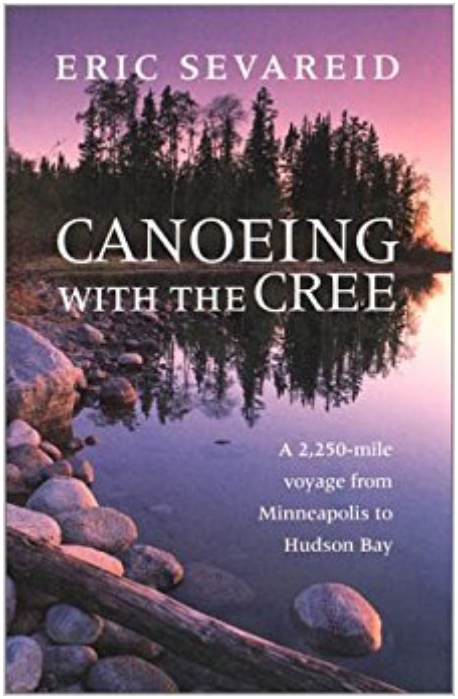
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Canoeing With The Cree (Publications Of The Minnesota Historical Society)



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Synopsis

"Canoeing with the Cree is an all-time favorite of mine."--Ann Bancroft, Arctic explorer "Imagination and determination are the stuff of this book." --The Beaver In 1930 two novice paddlers--Eric Sevareid and Walter C. Port--launched a secondhand 18-foot canvas canoe into the Minnesota River at Fort Snelling for an ambitious summer-long journey from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay. Without benefit of radio, motor, or good maps, the teenagers made their way over 2,250 miles of rivers, lakes, and difficult portages. Nearly four months later, after shooting hundreds of sets of rapids and surviving exceedingly bad conditions and even worse advice, the ragged, hungry adventurers arrived in York Factory on Hudson Bay--with winter freeze-up on their heels. First published in 1935, Canoeing with the Cree is Sevareid?s classic account of this youthful odyssey. The newspaper stories that Sevareid wrote on this trip launched his distinguished journalism career, which included more than a decade as a television correspondent and commentator on the CBS Evening News.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Canoeing with the Cree is an all-time favorite of mine."--Ann Bancroft, Arctic explorer

Eric Sevareid --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An earlier reviewer mentioned a certain call, a certain similarity, a formless link to a couple of Jack

London’s works in the genre of literary naturalism. Sevareid is instead writing of the actual, is essentially writing a narrative with few symbols and metaphors compared with London’s inspiring fiction that also runs deep into the heart. The Call of the Wild and White Fang often came to my mind also. I wonder if Port and Sevareid had read London? I’d bet they had.The call is to remove oneself from electrified and plumbed shelter, from safety and comfort, and to go long into the quiet wild. If that call has been previously heard, Canoeing with the Cree will call one forth again, and it might make the initial call.If you’re a Minnesotan, a Midwesterner, or an American, Sevareid has made it easy to be proud that you are one, and without intendion to have that effect on his readers. His and Port’s trip up into the great Northland was a monumental accomplishment.One of my nephews says he knows all about canoeing, that he learned it on a computer game. I wish that he would read this book, but always some device is in his hands and has all his attention.

I bought this book on a whim because I had read Eric Sevareid’s "Not So Wild a Dream" and liked it very much. This book is absolutely amazing. An adventure story on the order of Call of the Wild or White Fang. Two young men, just out of high school, undertake an extremely dangerous canoe trip which has never been done before. I think a key phrase would be ’unbeknownst to them’. They did not know it would be so grueling, so long or so treacherous. They were young, athletic outdoorsmen and thought they could do anything. It probably has something to do with today’s prevalence of cell phones, GPS devices, sophisticated camping and outdoor gear, and most people’s basic lack of first-hand experience of wilderness in general, that makes this story so remarkable and totally thrilling. You just can’t believe what these two young men go through or how they can summon the fortitude to finish the over 2,000 mile long canoe trip, full of obstacles, one after another after another. Freezing cold, rain, so many mosquitoes they could kill a man, getting lost, no maps, no fire, unexpected Indian encounters--can they trust them or not? It could mean paddling hours or days in the wrong direction. No food, unexpected miles and miles of portages, overturned canoes....the list goes on and on and on. There was a wild-ness that I don’t think we can ever know again. Eric Sevareid’s narrative is so understated and compelling I sometimes could not believe what I just read....they did WHAT? When it was over, I felt like those two young men could have accomplished anything. Eric Severaid became a newsman and traveled the world. I don’t know about the other one. But I’ll bet he accomplished whatever he set out to do.I wish this book was taught in schools instead of some of the books they choose for the kids now.

Wonderful. Turned me very green with envy. A clear case of youth being well-used and not wasted

on the young.I read it cover to cover as soon as it arrived. It’s a short book but it took a few hours because I wanted to savor it and because I’ve never been a fast reader.One of the cover blurbs says it’s bound to be inspirational to young people. It should also be cautionary. Severeid and his partner had a number of very close calls that could have left them dead in the deep wilderness.Also, the title is a bit misleading. They don’t actually spend much time with the Cree Indians, they don’t travel with them.One note to bargain hunters: for some reason it’s hard to find used copies of the 1968 edition. They only seem to want to sell the 2004 edition. But if you dig you can find one and it’s quite a bit cheaper.

Amazing book as a reader of canoeing books and a person who has done long trips I endorse it. I have an Outdoor ed degree and found it enlightening and educational.

This is one of those old books that is "rediscovered" when it’s re-released, bringing it to the attention and admiration of a whole new generation. Originally published in the 1930s as newspaper columns written during the trip, this is one of those books you’ll remember long after you’ve read it.Eric and Walt, high school seniors, plan and dream about taking a record-setting canoe trip after they graduate. They set out with a used canoe, basic clothes and minimal food and just a few dollars between them. They plan to travel from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay, a trip of over 2,000 miles. And, nobody thinks they can do it because it had never been done before. The book is set in the Great Depression, and the simplicity of their gear and the goodness of people helping them remind me of my grandparents and the stories they had from the Depression.Eric and Walt face wild rapids, stultifying heat, mosquitoes and biting flies, pouring rain, sucking mud, bad advice, incomplete maps, and the quickly approaching freeze-up of winter. They get burned by the sun as they paddle without sunscreen, drink river water without boiling it, and eat an unbalanced diet, and yet they enjoy every second of their adventure. There’s a lot to be said for youthful enthusiasm, simpler times and being ignorant of skin cancer. Every adult should have adventures to look back on, of days when they had lots of energy and no responsibilities, and weren’t worried about doing dangerous things.I won’t spoil the ending of the book for those who want to read it, but I will say that I’m sure you’ll enjoy it as much as I did.

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