

## **Paddling Down Memory Lane:**



***Our daughter, son, & Terry in "Big Red" (1979)***

***"Psalm 23:2- He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads beside still waters." (He "offers" his peace, in a place, where we can slow down, breathe deeply, be still, be quiet, with him, embrace His pure love.)***

It was raining on Thursday, May 16, 1974 and a day earlier than we had planned on, when we picked up our new "Red", Wm. Coleman Craft Canoe, at Bill's shop, on Water St., Cambridge. The all-night rain fall was the start of "The Grand River Flood of 1974".

Some years later, when we visited Bill in his shop, he told us he remembered us, due to the flood that spring, which had flooded his old shop. Pointing to the knee-high waterline mark on his desk, Bill informed us, that had we, collected our canoe, on the Friday as planned, we would have been his first clients ever, to be able to paddle our new canoe (affectionately named "Big Red") out the shop. In his shop, on display, was a snow-white canoe with burgundy seats & accent trim. We talked, and our family had our second Coleman Craft Canoe-" Big White".

The custom design of the Coleman Craft canoes, make them easy to paddle, glide, handle well, in nearly all conditions, including, fast water, waves, high winds, squirming kids, and dogs. Teaching our daughter and son, how to paddle and navigate a canoe, then in later years, watching them teach our active grandchildren, their families, the same skills. Along with paddling on the Grand River with my late father, the many hours, days spent in our canoes, on the Sauble River with friends and family these, are memories we truly cherish. From our canoes, we have viewed, many different mamas with their young; a moose with her calf, black bears followed by their cubs, skunks with their kits following in line; nature being observed at its finest, with portages through a variety of forests of trees, green pastures, paddling by still waters, the scenery of the lakes of Algonquin Park, the waterways, rivers, sunsets of the Bruce Peninsula, are everlasting, precious memories.

***Lest we forget; The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork- Psalm 19:1***

We have listened to the sounds of nature; the churning of fast water rapids, the soft lapping water on the canoe's sides; the pleasing bird generated sounds, from geese, ducks, sea gulls, loons, songbirds; sound of beavers, otters, fish, splashing the water; the soft gentle sound of a waterfall, that turned out to a fast, approaching hard driving rainstorm. Of course, we can never forget the sound of millions of buzzing mosquitoes at sunset, looking for prey, usually us. **We remember *"Through Him all things were made; without Him, nothing was made."* John 1:3**

**So, why share the history of our time with our canoes?**

Well, our canoeing has given us many opportunities to view the world of nature our Lord has created, the opportunities often nearly missed. We have come to realize one can never know when we're making memories. Surprisingly, many memories came from things, that nearly went unnoticed, at the time. ***"Many eyes go through the meadow few see the flowers in it" stated Ralph Waldo Emerson. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. - Psalm 145:5.***

The most recent Covid-Variant lockdown, has saddened, burdened the lives of so many. We realized that too often, we forget, that it is the small gifts we have been given by the Lord, the simple moments, which can make us happy. Too often, we are caught up in everyday life, forgetting our need to appreciate, to listen, to smell, to observe, enjoy the simple things of life.



***Our daughter, Rebecca & Terry (2019)***



***Our son Jamie, granddaughters  
Chelsey & Zoey (Big White)  
Son-in-law Steve and grandson,  
Mitch "Big Red" (2018)***

**What simple moment has made you feel happy lately; not sure?**

***“Ask the animals, and they will teach you, tell you; or birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know, that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hands, is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.” Job12:7-10.***

A simple thing like sitting in our canoes, on still waters, for us represents a blessing, simplicity, serenity, relaxation, independence, the potential to make new memories. The memories, we have made with our family, are timeless treasures; a way to hold onto the things, people we love, and never want to lose. Our own determination will allow us to exhort the power we want or need to move ahead, in these times of many challenges.

***May our LORD, who made heaven and earth, “Bless you and give you, everlasting memories.”***

***Connie & Terry McCoy- St. Peter’s-by-the-Lake, Sauble Beach***



***Our son & his son, in “Big Red” & Terry & Connie, in “Big White” (2013)***

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