

Loneliest Woman Still Sticks To Her Wilderness

By ALFRED McCORMACK JR.

ELY, Minn. (UPI) — A timber wolf howling on a snow-covered hilltop is a familiar sight to the "loneliest woman in America" who lives deep in the northwoods wilderness along the Minnesota-Canadian border.

Dorothy Moller, 52, is a trained nurse, graduate of Calumet High School in Chicago and a nursing school there. She became fed up with city life in 1937.

This will be the 22nd winter she has spent alone on her three connecting islands in Minnesota's famed "canoe country," where planes are forbidden to land on the lakes and travel is by canoe or snowshoe.

Dorothy, as she prefers to be known, has prematurely white hair. Her face has been tanned by years of outdoor living to the point where she sometimes is mistaken for an Indian. She is stronger than most men. She dislikes formality and fancy dress, wears blue jeans and a shirt with only minor variations for the sub-zero winter.

She must bring all her supplies over a series of lakes, streams and canoe portage which run north to her Isle of Pines of Knife Lake. She can make the 36-mile round trip to Ely in a day by canoe, bringing back seven 60-pound packs—a trip few others, including Indians and trappers, would attempt except in an emergency. It is not uncommon for campers and guides to take three days making the trip one-way.

During the summer, when Canadians paddle down from the north and Americans come up from Ely or Grand Marais and Gunflint, Minnesota, Dorothy operates the closest thing to a trading post this side of Hudson's Bay. She has dehydrated food, candy, beer, homemade root beer, canoe paddles, canned meat, sugar, salt, flour, axes and just about everything else that could possibly come in handy in the woods. Her best customers are those whose canoes have turned over and are left without supplies.

She considers herself more the "Florence Nightingale of the Northwoods" than the "loneliest woman in America." Dorothy keeps her nursing certificate up to date, which means traveling to Chicago every few years to work in a hospital for two weeks.

"About the only thing I haven't had happen is some woman having a baby," she recalled.

Most patients are victims of canoes which overturned in the rapids, or persons who injured themselves scrambling around on sharp rocks or shore or cut themselves with an axe or knife. Occasionally in a serious case, Dorothy paddles a canoe 15 miles down to the Canadian Customs station on Basswood Lake, where a U.S. Forest Service plane is summoned by two-way radio.

HONOR HYMN'S AUTHOR

FALMOUTH, Mass. (UPI)—The 100th anniversary of the birth of Katharine Lee Bates, author of "America The Beautiful," will be celebrated August 12 in this Cape Cod town — her birthplace.

The author of the verses which, set to music, have become one of the most widely-sung of America's patriotic hymns, was born in a shingled house on Main Street, near the Village Green. The house is marked by a simple bronze plaque on a boulder.

TOO GOOD

BRADFORD, Vt. (UPI) — The Bradford High School baseball team had to advertise for games because it was so good no other school dared offer opposition.

The last of the guides and canoeists disappear early in October. Then Dorothy gets ready for winter.

"It takes about three or four real good trips to bring in the food," she explained, "and then I have to start the wood chopping." Meat is obtained later, courtesy of the Minnesota-Ontario deer population.

During "freezeup," when canoe travel is impossible and the ice is too thin for snowshoeing, Dorothy is confined to her islands. The rest of the year she takes trips through the woods and along the lakes, angles for the fish or takes moving pictures.

Winter evenings are spent inside her cabin, built years ago by oldtime loggers, making drawings of birds or other wildlife and catching up on her reading.

Is she lonely in this silent land of the hibernating black bear?

"I don't know that I'm ever lonely," she said. "There's so much to do and I know I can always snowshoe into Ely."

"I like to get out and look at sunsets from the top of a hill or watch for wolves and deer."

As for city life, well, Dorothy prefers the wolves, bears and mud to the crowds. The tall buildings are no replacement for her giant pines, rippling water and fish-filled streams of which she is sole human custodian for more than eight months a year.

One thing is certain. She does not plan to return to the city to live.

"This is my home, and I think this is where I'll die," she said.



ROOM WITH A DIFFERENCE — This bedroom - playroom has many charming features which, coupled with the western pine region lumber and lumber paneling, should make any child as proud as paint. The built-in bed sets a dominant note, but the drawers below, the scalloped detail over the bed and larger window and the peaked plank and beam ceiling give this room added warmth and distinction.

Paneling In Child's Room Solves Many Big Problems

One way to keep the children out of your hair is to give them a bedroom or playroom that is designed to make them want to settle there for reading, watching television or studying instead of playing cowboys and Indians all over the house. This isn't offered as a fool-proof formula, but it can go a long way, because kids like to have a room that's "theirs."

Naturally, your overall concept will differ for a boy or girl, but lumber and lumber paneling make an excellent choice of material. Lumber goes to create fine storage built-ins, bunk beds, window seats, or desks, and a matching lumber paneling makes fine wall and ceiling covering that takes hard knocks and keeps its beauty.

Don't limit yourself to thinking strictly in terms of familiar knotty paneling. This is beautiful, but give some thought to a clear grade of lumber, perhaps rough-sawn for a boy's room and smooth with a soft pigmented stain for a girl's. There are many other possibilities with stains, of course, because today paneled rooms are breaking out in all the colors of the rainbow.

Some of the most practical lumber, both from the standpoint of taking finishes and for easy workability, are the 10 species that grow in the western pine region. They are readily available and offer a good range of "personalities" to suit the effect you want.

Thus, if your boy is the outdoor type you might select the warm tones of incense cedar or inland red cedar. Or, if you like interesting knot formations in paneling, you could select ponderosa pine with its big, splashy knots,

Idaho white pine with a nice discreet knot, or lodgepole pine with tiny knots.

There really is great scope in western pine region lumber. It ranges in color from the very light tones of Engelmann spruce and Idaho white pine up to the darker reddish tones of the two aforementioned cedars. Sugar pine machines very well if you are thinking in terms of built-ins, decorative embellishments, or turned posts for staircases or room dividers. Larch boasts a fine texture and uniform grain and, being tougher than many hardwoods, can take the rough treatment kids dish out. White fir and Douglas fir are the other two woods from this area and they, too, are easy to work with and take readily to any finishing treatment you may prefer.

Think about special effects in your room when you plan your project. One outstanding unit can set a distinctive note. For example, you might be able to create a built-in bed under a window. This might be lined with shelves for books and prized possessions. You might create an interesting effect by covering a wall with cupboards and cabinets interspersed with wardrobe-type closets and a pair of desks if two off-spring share the room.

Walls and ceiling might be covered with paneling or you might decide to panel one or the other and use an attractive paper to offset the wood. Another thought is to panel your walls to within a few feet of the ceiling and put a china or so-called plate rail around the top. Paneling to chair rail height also looks very hand-

some with the right paper or shade of paint above, and the paneling will take the inevitable young kicks and scuffs and bear up nobly through the ordeal.

Farm Fish Pond Tips In Bulletin

Backyard fishing is a source of both fun and profit for farmers who manage their farm fish ponds well, reports Andrew Landforce, Oregon State College extension wildlife management specialist.

As many as 500 adult medium-size fish can be grown in a one-acre pond stocked with largemouth bass and bluegill sunfish. That's plenty of good fishing for family, guests and neighbors.

A new Oregon State College bulletin tells how to manage warm water game fish ponds in Oregon. The bulletin suggests the best combinations of bass and bluegills for various parts of the state; tells where to buy fish for stocking ponds; comments on pond size, plants and fertilizer; and suggests three good ways to catch bass and bluegills.

Oregon residents can get a free copy of "Managing Oregon Warm Water Game Fish Ponds" from their local county extension office, or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

SOLD . . . ON BASEBALL

CHICAGO (UPI) — Barry Latham, right-handed pitcher for the Chicago White Sox, originally planned to become a furniture auctioneer.

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