



The pause that refreshes Carroll is a change of footwear.

He Hiked from Iowa to Alaska

IOWA TO ALASKA is some 4,000 miles, but a wiry, bearded man named Vern Carroll knows every step of the way because he recently covered it—on foot.

He went from Dubuque to Fairbanks, a march lasting almost five months, during which he slept under bridges and in culverts and enjoyed such delicacies as moose, porcupine, and wild berries when his store-bought groceries gave out.

"It was a wild, wonderful adventure, and I had a good, rough time of it," says Carroll. "The outdoor life made me feel like a man of 20 again, and I'd do it over if it'd help the boys."

"The boys" of whom the 49-year-old former truck driver speaks are the youngsters who are members of Boys' Clubs of America. Carroll, a volunteer worker in the Dubuque Club, staged his trek to dramatize the need for a club to be established in Alaska, the only state which doesn't have one. Orphaned as a boy himself, Carroll declares, "I've always been interested in kids, and while I've seen evil men I've never met a bad child."

The hiker started from Dubuque with some

food, clothing, and camping gear stuffed into a golf cart, but he switched to a shoulder pack on the Alcan Highway. "All along the way people offered to pick me up, but when I explained I was walking in behalf of the Boys' Clubs, they'd wish me well and go ahead," says Carroll. "In fact, the only problem I had was dogs—they're not always as friendly as people!"

His most memorable experience was in the Yukon. Picking berries one day, he glanced up to spy a bear foraging in the same bushes. "I moved on!" he admits. Other times, incessant rains washed out his camp site, and he spent the nights trying to get warm and dry.

"As he goes through life, every man has to take some bitter with the sweet," Carroll wrote the Dubuque Club from Alaska. "When you can do that, it makes a good man out of you, and I know all you lads will be real men some day."

The walk from state No. 29 to state No. 49 already has borne fruit: an Anchorage businessman named Henry Wolff has donated land for Alaska's first Boys' Club, and a number of carpenters have volunteered to erect the building,

to Alaska

Vern Carroll didn't walk those 4,000 miles from Dubuque as a stunt—he had a goal in mind that will benefit our new state's future

By JERRY KLEIN



Despite rain, he pursues his course.

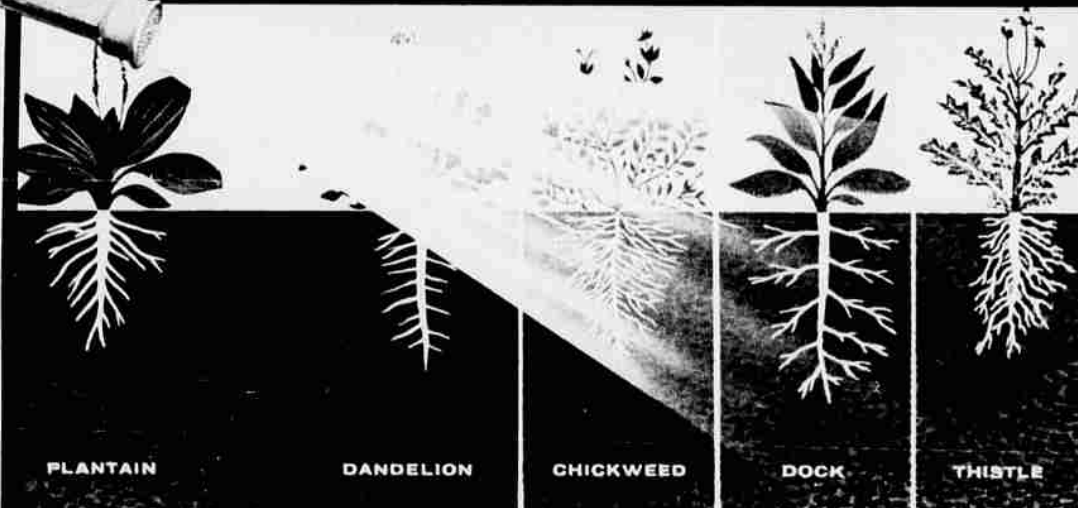


Vern phones progress to Dubuque Boys' Club. He walked to our 49th state to help set up some similar clubs there.



Back in Iowa, the boys take turns talking to their hero.

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