A black and white photograph of three canoeists in a race, viewed from behind. They are in a narrow canoe, leaning forward, and using long paddles. The water is choppy with small waves. The image is used as a background for the title slide.

# The Canoe Era



CULVER ACADEMIES

## The First Canoe Races





BILL GARRISON

A key figure in ushering in canoeing to Culver was instructor **William Garrison**, who brought an enthusiasm for the sport upon arriving at Culver in 1963. He would go on to coach Culver canoeing for the next several years. In his first year at Culver, he petitioned the Superintendent for a canoeing program

Background and History

The First Canoe Races

Scan Me





November 7, 1963

MEMORANDUM To: Major General D. T. Spivey,  
Superintendent

Re: A Suggested Progressive Canoeing Program at Culver.

The following suggestions are made to develop a program in canoeing that will supplement the basic course that was established in the summer of 1963. They also are in addition to the proposed improvements already submitted in the basic canoe program for Woodcraft, 1964.

1. A hobby group for winter school based on canoeing, camping, fishing: This could be a nine-month affair, adjusting the activity to the desires of the cadets, the weather, the outside activities that are desirable. These last would include canoe rallies, races, etc.

Basically, the aims would be to make available to cadets the chance to get outdoors, to improve outdoor skills, to learn self-reliance, to cooperate in small groups, to develop interests that will carry over into manhood.

It has been my pleasure to help organize a similar group in another school, where we considered it very successful. With the equipment and facilities already available at Culver we can do a great job with very little expense.

2. A spring canoe race. Last spring a group of boys and I initiated a two-day canoe race in Central Indiana that was a real success. A race of this type presents the rare opportunity for Americans to test themselves against the endurance and skill of others. It also is a challenge to win out over the obstacles of nature.

The particular plans that I have in mind are rather lengthy for a written discussion. I respectfully request the opportunity to outline them in person.

3. Summer canoe trips on the Tippecanoe.

As a part of our regular Woodcraft water program I feel that we should develop, as the top echelon of our canoe training, three-day river trips.

The boys would be selected for their mastery of skills, their dependability, and citizenship.

Campcraft and nature study knowledge would be employed while new arts such as packing, portaging, "reading the river" would be mastered.

Here again, existing facilities and equipment would be employed in order to gain the maximum usage which is obviously not true with the present program.

Full detailed plans can be submitted to the proper administrators in Woodcraft.

4. Summer Educational Tours:

Experience, on a limited scale, has proven to me that the best way

Canoeing at Culver

Page 2

to interest young Americans in their country and its heritage is to show it to them. When they can be induced to slow the frantic pace at which we all live and travel in the manner of our forefathers, the benefits are multiplied.

Briefly, here is my idea: Take about twenty boys, with two leaders, one who is a historian, one a scientist or naturalist, and tour one of the great waterways of the country.

The first tour I would suggest would be the Lake Champlain - Hudson River. This area is steeped in history, literature, heritage. A close examination would be made of places like Plattsburg, Ticonderoga, "Sleepy Hollow," West Point, New York City, etc. The scientific instructor would cover geography, geology, botany, etc.

Travel would be by canoe (with sails available). Living would be by camping with enough "civilized" rest stops to avoid monotony.

This trip could take four weeks. Two other instructors with an equal number boys would be at camp ready to trade places. This would eliminate empty beds at camp.

This is just a rough outline. A target date could be the summer of 1965.

In summary, I make myself available to discuss further, work out plans, and carry out any and all of the above.

William Garrison  
William Garrison

The First Canoe Races

Scan Me





After getting Culver's approval for the Canoe Club, William Garrison went about organizing the first Canoe Race to be sponsored by Culver to be held on the Tippecanoe River in April of 1964. The Rules and Application for the first race were prepared and there was an overwhelming number of 75 cadets wanting to participate in the event. News Releases were prepared and sent out about this first race which was open to the general public. It was also published in the April Vedette.





# Culver Canoe Team

FROM: News Bureau, Culver Military Academy, Culver, Indiana

CONTACT for further information: Robert A. Reichley, Assistant Director, Public Relations. Telephone VI 2-3311, ext. 330.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CULVER, IND.--A 60-mile canoe race on the Tippecanoe River will be sponsored by Culver Military Academy on the weekend of April 18 and 19.

William Garrison, an Academy history teacher, conceived the idea of the race and will serve as its chairman. Garrison formerly taught at University High School in Bloomington, Ind., and chairmanned a similar event in that area last year. Thirty participants--many of them college students--competed in the race.

The Academy race is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 18, from Leiters Ford. The end of the first leg will be at Elvera Beason Memorial Park, an Academy-owned recreational facility located on the Tippecanoe some 17 miles from the Culver campus. Canoes and crews will set out Sunday morning to cover the remaining distance to Buffalo, Ind.

There is no age restriction on entries and Garrison said anyone may enter the race. Crews will be limited to three members and the type of craft is restricted to canoes. The Academy will make available for purchase a Saturday evening meal and Sunday breakfast at Beason Park, where overnight lodgings will also be provided. Academy buses also will transport contestants from the Academy to Leiters Ford and will also return them to the Culver campus from Buffalo at the conclusion of the race.

Garrison said entry fees will be used to purchase prizes, and crews will have their choice of prizes according to the place in which they finish. He added that Culver will also make some of its canoes available to participants, although Academy students will have first claim. Others will be loaned on a first come, first served basis.

Additional details and entry blanks may be secured by writing Garrison in care of Culver Military Academy, Culver, Ind.

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## Memorandum

17 April, 1964

A leave has been approved for certain cadets to go on a Canoe Race.

They will leave the Academy at 7:00 A.M. Saturday, 18 April, and return by approximately 4:00 P.M. Sunday, 19 April.

Mr. Garrison will have charge of the group.

The following cadets will make the trip:

Alderman, H.	Harland, L.	Mars, T.
Allen, J.R.	Hamady, R.	Miller, M.
Allen, T.J.	Hearn, H.	Mitchell, R.C.
Atkins, P.K.	Hurwitz, S.S.	O'Flaherty, J.W.
Baldwin, M.D.	Hutchins, S.O.	O'Hara, D.T.
Breach, O.	Johnson, T.O.	Osborn, G.
Brenkert, K.	Jones, S.W.	Paty, B.
Brewer, M.D.	Killian, P.W.	Paterson, S.R.
Bickers, J.B.	Kahn, M.	Pauker, R.A.
Carroll, T.R.	Fuller, T.	Putnam, R.W.
Clark, D.D.	Lauridsen, H.O.	Quandt, S.M.
Crane, V.B.	Lippert, K.	Ramsay, R.M.
Duncan, D.R.	Lowman, D.W.	Rowell, P.W.
Donohue, J.P.	Manning, R.L.	Ray, E.A.
Dukette, J.D.	Martine, R.J.	Rosenberg, C.
Everitt, J.	Marshall, W.A.	Sandow, H.T.
Fletcher, W.S.	Massa, C.	Smith, J.S.
Foster, B.	Marvin, J.G.	Smith, T.
Grubb, J.D.	Mears, N.F.	Seel, J.W.
Hall, R.		Sinnreich, J.H.
Haymond, J.	Morris, M.D.	Sutton, S.
Hayward, A.	Magill, L.	Smithers, L.E.
		Sutton, S.
		Swickard, D.
		Schwaiger, K.
		Stephenson, J.G.
		Terrazas, R.
		Vickery, D.
		Woodward, R.
		Woodruff, J.B.
		Wynne, T.

## Alternate

MacLeod, D.

S\*V

*E. Stephenson*  
E. Stephenson,  
Commandant.

## Background and History

Scan Me









## 62 Cadets to Compete in Two- Day Regatta Down Tippecanoe River

By Charles Benner

Sixty-two cadets will launch their canoes April 18 for a two-day race down the Tippecanoe River. They will be joined by 100 entrants from the surrounding area, according to William Garrison, who is conducting the race.

The race will start at Leiters Ford Saturday and after an overnight stay at Beason Park, will continue on to Buffalo. The total distance is about 60 miles. A five dollar entry fee is required from each boat in order to pay for the prizes, which will consist of sports equipment.

The crews will be given cards with their starting times Saturday. These time cards will be collected upon arrival at Beason Park and will determine starting positions in Sunday's final surge.

The officials for the race are Mr. Garrison, Richard McKay, John Mars and Herb Kincey, a veteran canoe racer from Bloomington. The officials will be assisted by two co-eds from Indiana University's Recreation Department.

The only rules for the race are: conventional paddles must be used; crews may not get help; crews may only leave the river to portage; no shortcuts are allowed; and all participants must

wear life jackets.

Mr. McKay will follow the race in a small motorboat.

Mr. Garrison says the purpose of the trip is "to give sportsmen a chance to test themselves against the river and against others, and to give them a chance to meet other people who have an interest in canoe racing." He expressed hope that the race might become an annual affair, and that possibly a Culver canoe racing team could be started.

Mr. Garrison says that all of Culver's 29 entry spots are filled and there is a long waiting list. The following cadets are crew captains: Bruce Foster, Jake Smith, Ken Lippert, Dick Randall, Bruce Paty, Steve Fletcher, Jack Allen, Steve Hurwitz.

Also, Chris Chesley, Bart Woodruff, Mike Morris, Art Hayward, John Bartholomew, Bob Wahl, Mark Baldwin, Henry Schlapp, Bill Sandow, Eliot Walters, Greg Osborn, Van Mathews, Tom Smith, Tom Johnson, Jon Sinnreich, Don Swickard, Mark Brewer, Mark Miller, Bill Crandell and Jim Grubb.

Crew members are asked to leave their names with Mr. Garrison so that an order may be published, excusing them for the weekend.

Vedette 4-10-1964

FROM: News Bureau, Culver Military Academy, Culver, Indiana

CONTACT for further information: Robert A. Reichley, Assistant Director, Public Relations. Telephone VI 2-3311, ext. 330.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CULVER, IND.--Crews for some 50 canoes have been entered in Culver Military Academy's 60-mile canoe race down the Tippecanoe River on the weekend of April 18-19.

William Garrison, an Academy history instructor who is serving as chairman of the race, says he expects possibly 100 canoes to be entered by the time the first wave of boats leaves the shores of the Tippecanoe at Leiters Ford, Ind., at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 18. The race will end Sunday evening at Buffalo, Ind.

Entries for the race will be received up until the start of the race on April 18, however Garrison said a deadline of April 16 has been placed on reservations for overnight lodging at Beason Park, where canoeists will end the first leg of the competition Saturday night. Reservations for lodging, entry blanks, and information may be obtained from Garrison by writing him in care of Culver Military Academy, Culver, Ind.

Rules of the race allow anyone to enter, but crews are restricted to three men. Garrison said he expects additional entries to come in from college students in the surrounding four states. In addition, 29 canoes owned by Culver will be manned by Academy cadets.

Other rules to be in force during the race prohibit mechanical aids and the use of other than conventional type paddles. Canoeists may not receive help from anyone other than a member of their crew, and crews may leave the Tippecanoe only to portage around obstructions.

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The race was one of the longest races in the US, taking place over two days and going 54 miles. The first day found participants putting in at Leiters Ford, just south of Culver, and ending at Beason Park which is on the southeast corner of Tippecanoe River State Park. Racers could get a hot meal and a place to sleep before the next day started. On the second day, the race went from Beason Park to Buffalo City. It was a very long hard two days. The best finish for Culver was 11th place that year, but it was a big success and Culver received several letters commending them on the organization of the race. William Garrison worked very hard to make this race happen.





53240 Juniper Road  
South Bend, Ind. 46637  
April 20, 1964

Maj. Delmar Spivey  
Culver Military Academy  
Culver, Indiana

Dear sir:

I took part in the Culver canoe race last weekend, and I want to express my thanks to the people at CMA for making this event possible. I deeply appreciate all the time and work that so many people at Culver donated, and also your hospitality in letting us use the facilities at Beason Park.

This was the first contact I have ever had with CMA, and it was most pleasant.

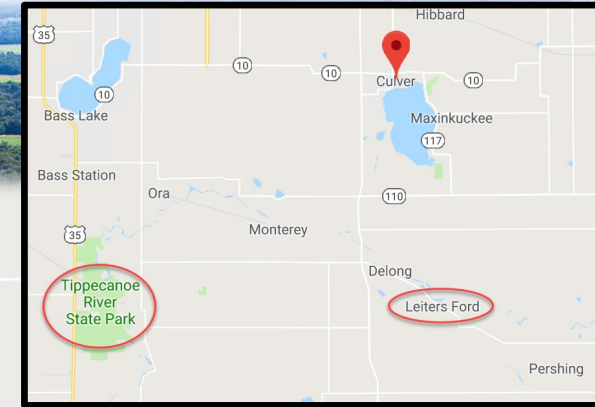
Sincerely yours,

*A. Gordon M. Nutting*





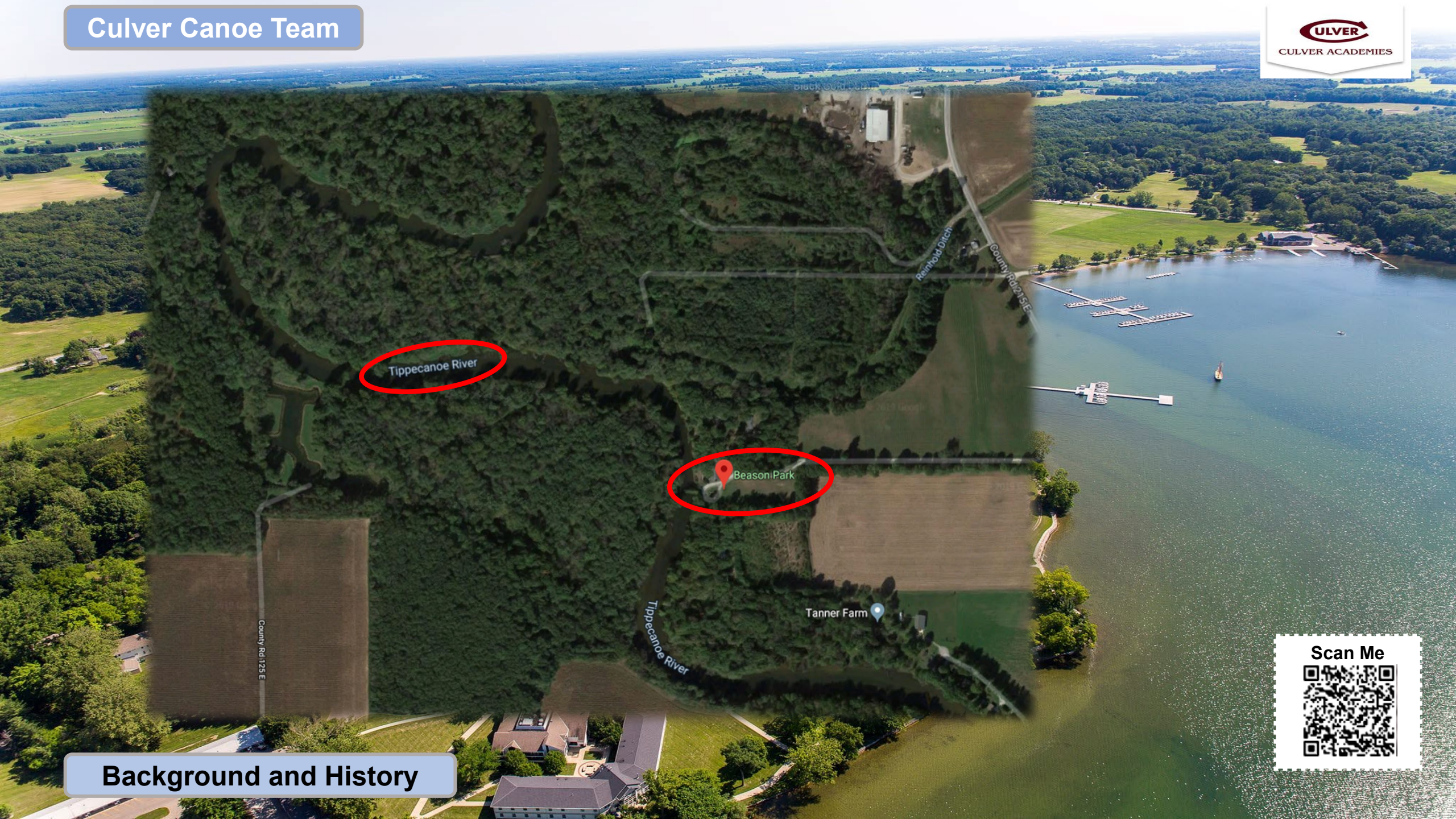
## Day 1 of Race











## Background and History

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Background and History

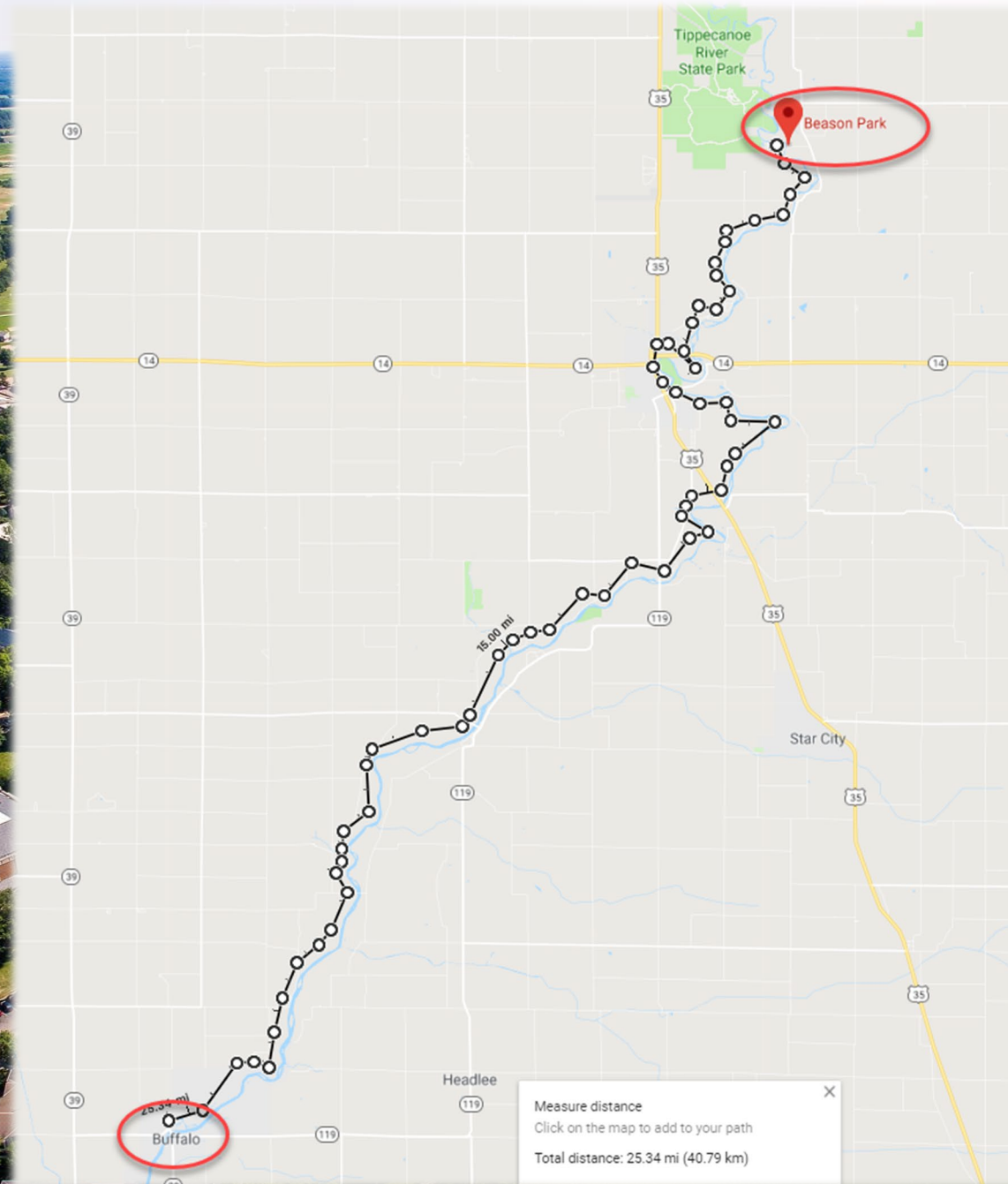
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**Day 2 of  
Race**

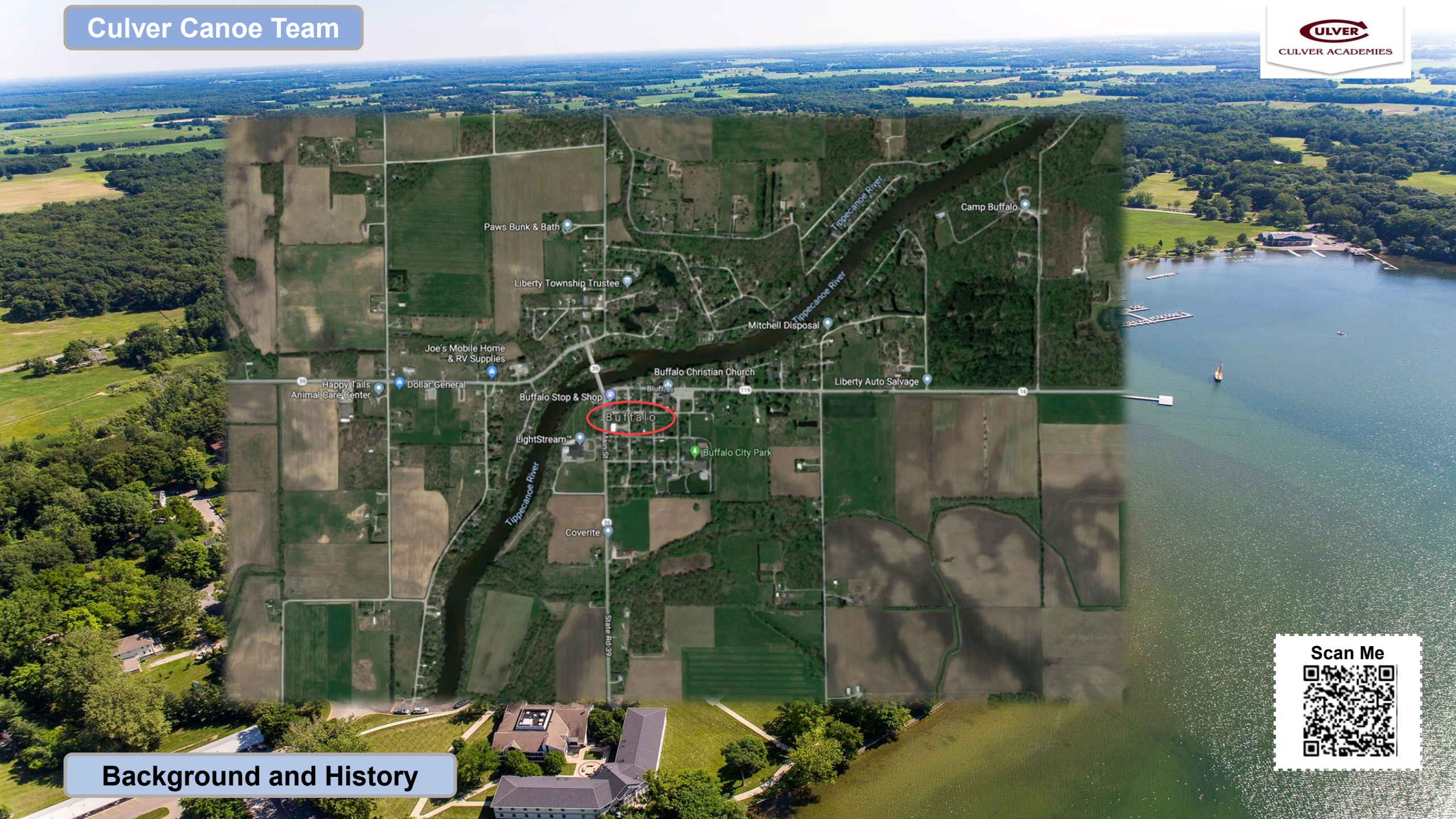
**Background and History**



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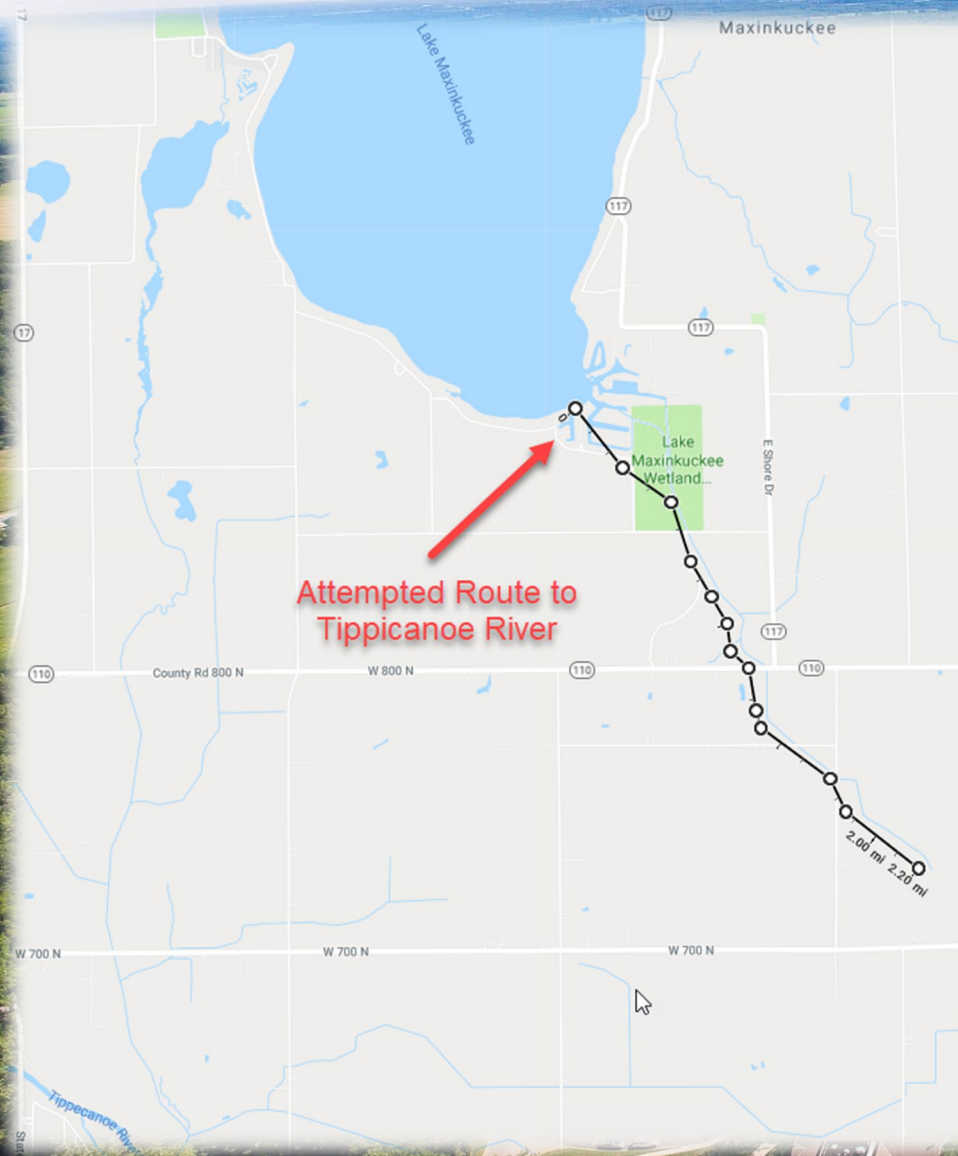




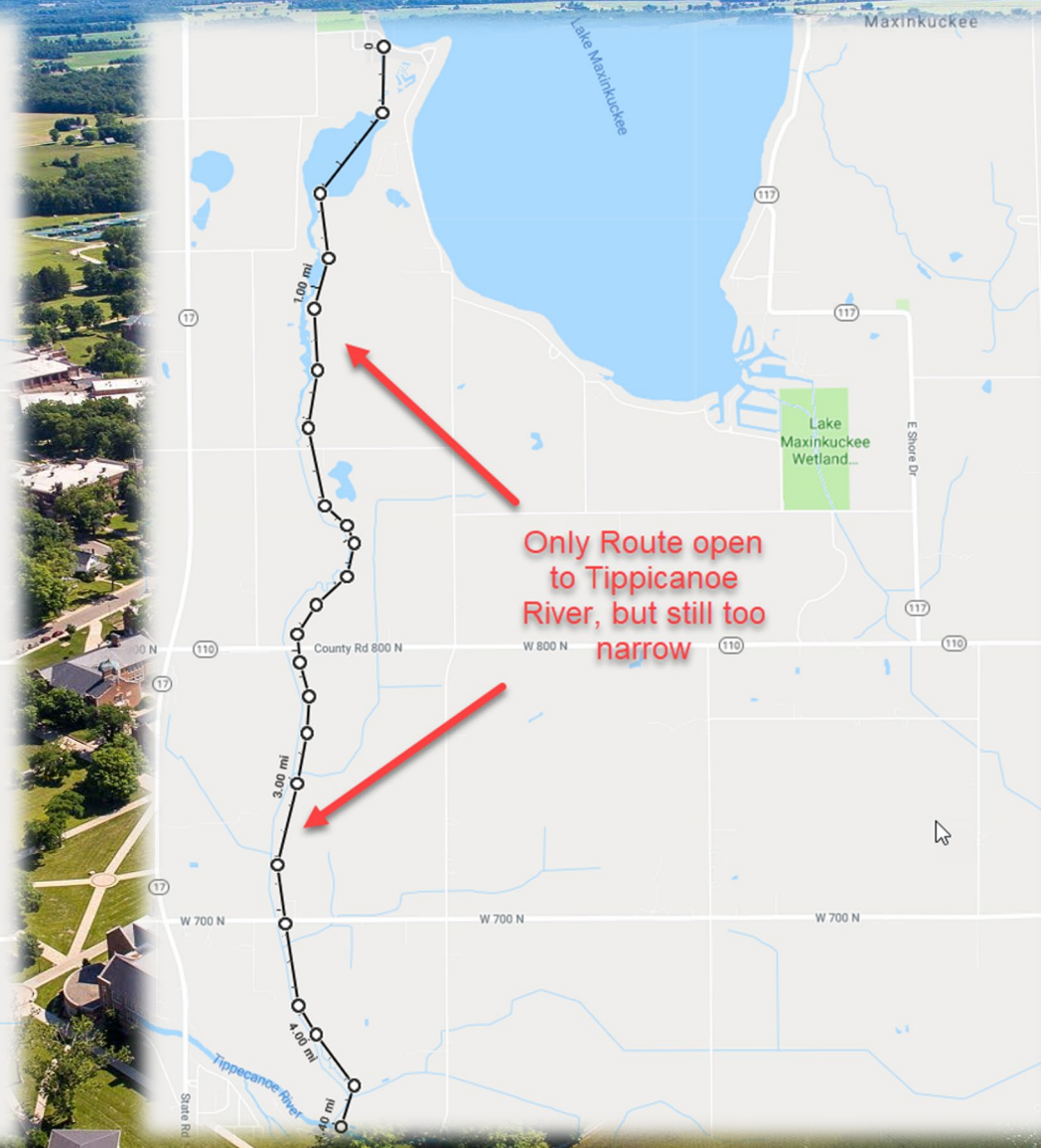
In preparation for the 2nd race in the Spring of 1965, William Garrison decided to try and start the race at Culver on Lake Maxinkuckee instead of Leiters Ford. This would have allowed a much better start to the race as everyone could start at the same time. There is a small creek that went from the southern part of Lake Maxinkuckee that appeared to feed into the Tippecanoe River. Therefore, in the fall of 1964, he took a few cadets on an exploration trip to see if they could get down the creek to the Tippecanoe river. It was a valiant attempt, but much of the creek was filled with mud which made it an improbable path for the race.







Attempted Route to  
Tippicanoe River



Only Route open  
to Tippicanoe  
River, but still too  
narrow






**VEDETTE**

Russia . . . Country at the Crossroads

 Oplate of a Stormy Empire, Pages 1 and 3  
 Dr. Blair on Russian Education, Page 3

Volume 72

Culver Military Academy, Culver, Indiana, November 19, 1965

Number 5

## Outing Club Paddles in Mud, River to Find New Race Route

The Outing Club, led by history instructor William P. Garrison, set out to explore the possible water route of the annual Culver canoe race last Saturday. Garrison was looking for a way to have the April race begin at the Academy on Aubenaubee Bay.

The idea of having the race start at the Academy was abandoned when the group discovered that they had to negotiate their way through marsh and muck for over a mile. In one incident Mr. Garrison got out of his canoe to lighten it and sank up to his waist in the muck.

In trying to avoid part of the swamp, a few cadet crews crossed a cow pasture. The cadets launched their canoes into the "ditch" just as the cows began to charge.

The "ditch" provided the most difficult traveling of the trip. In most places the water was only deep enough to float a canoe with one person. One man paddled the canoe while the other had to fight his way through brambles on the shore.

Very frequently the canoeists came upon log jams and barbed wire fences across the "ditch". Garrison's son, Matt, found this part of the trip challenging in the kayak which he took.

Mr. Garrison is nationally known for his expeditions. In

1963 he led a group of 15 hikers in the middle of February over the 200-mile George Rogers Clark trail.

Many newspapers, magazines and radio and TV stations carried stories about the unusual trek. Mr. Garrison has sponsored two Culver canoe races in the past two years which attracted canoeists from the U.S. and Canada.



The Canoeing Program is initially called the Outing Club

Background and History

Scan Me





In April of 1965, the race found another large participation with 67 cadets and 59 boats in the race. There were 24 boats from Culver and 35 from the outside. The April Vedette described the event. 1966 was the last year it would be a 2 day canoe race. After that race, it would be only one day ending at Beason Park.

Memorandum

9 April 1965

A leave has been approved for a group of cadets to go on a Canoe Race.

They will eat dinner in the Dining Hall at 12:15 P.M. They will leave the Academy, from the Logansport Gate, at 12:45 P.M. Saturday, 10 April, and return at approximately 5:00 P.M. Sunday, 11 April.

Mr. Garrison will have charge of the group.

The following cadets will make the trip:

Alderman, H.H.  
Alexander, V.  
Atkins, P.K.  
Barnhart, T.K.  
Berry, M.O.  
Bibo, J.C.  
Bush, W.S.  
Carmichael, J.S.  
Chapman, L.A.  
Collins, E.H.  
Corbett, A.B.  
Coulter, J.M.  
Culverhouse, H.F.  
Davis, T.R.  
Donald, R.A.  
Dukette, J.D.  
Eckert, W.J.  
Epley, C.W.  
Etchen, J.R.

Flemming, M.N.  
Fogel, R.M.  
Foster, F.B.  
Frison, T.W.  
Goldman, J.O.

Goranson, H.T.  
Guyon, C.R.  
Hardin, J.T.  
Hatten, T.E.  
Hershberger, D.  
Hutchinson, D.B.  
Kalb, T.W.  
Keenan, J.H.  
Lamontagne, R.W.  
\*Lagerquist, H.  
Lott, R.M.  
Magill, L.  
Marshall, G.E.  
Marshall, W.  
Martin, C.  
Merritt, D.A.  
Mitchell, R.C.  
Nichols, S.S.  
Nichols, W.R.  
Norton, D.R.  
O'Hara, D.T.  
O'Hara, T.M.  
Overmyer, E.E.  
Peck, D.C.  
Phillips, W.C.  
\*Leininger, S.W.

Price, J.R.  
Putnam, R.W.  
Randall, R.A.  
Richardson, W.T.  
Richter, W.I.  
Rutledge, J.C.  
Schlicher, F.  
Schwaiger, S.K.  
Scoutten, J.  
Seime, J.  
Smith, T.Q.  
Strzalkowski, W.  
Terrazas, R.  
Werle, K.C.  
Winget, M.G.  
Woodard, W.R.  
Warrick, T.J.

C. Maull  
Deputy Commandant

CM:mm

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## Tippecanoe River High for Race; 54-Mile Paddle Draws 60 Canoes

"The Tippecanoe River looks good for tomorrow. It's a lot higher this year than last year," announced William Garrison, organizer of the Annual Culver Tippecanoe River Canoe Race.

The two-day race, which begins tomorrow noon at Leiters Ford, will have contestants from four canoe clubs—Cincinnati (2), Chicago and Richmond, Ind. There will be 25 canoes entered from Culver and 35 from outside this area.

After covering 24 miles the canoeists will stop at Beason

Park for the night. That evening Midwest canoe experts will meet to begin forming an Indiana Canoe Racing Association. The Association, which Culver will join, will coordinate race dates.

The following morning, the racers will depart in the order they arrived. At that time, there will also be 12 all-girl canoes and 12 mixed canoes starting in a separate race. Bettie Zieg and Don Merritt will be the only mixed team from Culver.

At the completion of the race at Buffalo, the winners will be allowed to choose from the \$300 in prizes. The prizes will be assorted items of sporting goods.

"The planning and organization was done chiefly by cadets under Tom Carroll, president of Culver's canoe club, and Bill Hubble, race chairman," said Mr. Garrison.

A pick-up boat driven by Richard McKay and Robert Hartman will be available in case of emergency during the 54 mile race.



First Place Winners Douglas Guion and Frank Miller pose with organizer William Garrison (right)

*Vedette  
April 9, 1965*









# The Canoe Era



CULVER ACADEMIES

