

Explorers face peril, adventure

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two will have a 400-mile hitch along the highway back to Telegraph Creek. With any luck, they'll be back in Chapel Hill on the first of October.

"It's almost impossible to say how long or how far the trip will actually be because the area has never been officially traveled or mapped on the ground." In fact, the greater portion of the trip has never been documented as traveled. The first leg of the journey along the Stikine River, where a few deserted mining camps remain, is the only accurately mapped area the two will cover. It was last officially mapped by a canoeing party in 1837.

"There are just a few places left that can be considered true virgin wilderness. One is the Amazon River basin and another is northern Alaska. We didn't feel up to the Amazon, but this trip seemed to be the sort of thing we would like to try."

In emphasizing the wilderness the hikers were after, Bernard added, "We considered a couple of spots, including an area farther south in British Columbia. But when we checked a road map of the area, we found some foot paths that were marked. We then

decided upon the location up north which appears to be absolute wilderness."

One problem with the trip is the lack of information on the area. Bernard said, "It's almost impossible to say whether we'll be able to stick with our tentative plans or not. There's just too many unknown factors. For instance, the river canyon of the Stikine at the beginning of the trip might prove to be an impossible obstacle. We hope to follow a stream into the mountains, but where one map lists a tributary, the next map doesn't. We just don't know what we'll be able to do and what we won't."

Most of the research of the area was done in the map room of Wilson Library. Books, such as John McPhee's *Coming Into The Country* and journals left by some of the mining camps have been useful. A recent geographical survey of the region has produced some new topographical maps done from the air. "We haven't seen the maps yet because they haven't been released. We hope to have them by the first of next week."

With so much of the trip a mystery, the planning of equipment, supplies and food is the critical element. And when you're carrying 80 pounds on your back, you're well aware of an item's value as opposed to its weight.

"When we first started planning our gear, I had visions of a multitude of fantastic little gadgets that we would carry with us. As it turns out, we're keeping things pretty simple for the sake of economy."

"As far as food goes, we'll be carrying about 70 percent of our estimated need. But that's an emergency supply we'll use only when we're unable to forage. We'll be living off the land as much as possible—fishing, snaring small game, foraging for edible plants."

"The glacier poses the biggest problem for food. It's impossible to tell how long we'll be on the glacier, but during that time, we'll be dependent on that food we're packing with us."

Equipment for the trip is the means of survival and success. "We're not carrying anything outlandish, just the usual stuff; down jackets, vests, bags, mittens, thermal underwear and rain gear. We're expecting mild temperatures for most of the trip. Of course it will be cold on the glacier, but we expect very few nights of sub-zero weather."

Extensive climbing gear seemed unnecessary, for as Bernard put it, this trip isn't a mountain-climbing expedition. "We plan to 'walk' wherever we go." For the glacier, a couple hundred feet of rope, a pulley system and instep spikes for footing are all Bernard thinks would be needed.

Stan Quinby of Carolina Outdoors, who helped outfit the trip said the two are coming up against some formidable odds; the length of time they'll be on the trail, their isolation, bears, and just the element of the unknown. Quinby couldn't recommend two more capable men for such a trip; but "there's a chance you'll never see these guys again. They are literally going where no man has gone before. They're going to spend a long time out in some pretty wild country. I've planned and heard of a lot of trips before, but this is one of the roughest I've known."

"Fear is a very real part of this trip," said Bernard. "In fact, it may be the most intriguing element. I think in four months out in the wilderness, I'll come to know things about myself that were unknown before. Emotions may surface that I've never experienced. Coming to terms with myself, my thoughts, my emotions, and my environment—that's all a big part of the trip."

Bears, both grizzlies and black bears, will be a threat on the trip. While traveling along the rivers, the hikers will be in the thick of bear country.

"There's a couple of schools of thought on how to approach the bear problem. Most people think we should be carrying guns. But besides being too much weight to tote around, we feel a gun would give us a certain

arrogance toward the animals and their habitat. I'm the intruder. I'm the one who's disrupting things. In general, a bear in the wild will tend to avoid you as much as you try to avoid them. I'm going in there with a great deal of respect for the wildlife and their environment."

The tentative takeoff date is just a week away. Bernard will spend that time at home with his family trying to convince his mother of his sanity and the worthiness of the trip.

His mother has been through this all once before. Ten years ago, his father went on a two week hunting trip in roughly the same area. The lake he was located on froze over so the pontoon planes couldn't land to bring them out. For six weeks Bernard's father was stranded and the family never heard a word. The family finally had to get word through the governor. For Bernard's mother, that's a lot of weight to carry.

"I'd hate to be so trite as to say we're going to get away from it all," Bernard said. "I think the philosophy behind the trip goes a little further than that. Sure, we're trying to get away from the schedules, the supermarkets and the people for that matter. We just want to experience living from another viewpoint."

"Coming home will be a real culture shock. After spending that much time in the woods, it'll be difficult to readjust to things." Bernard added laughingly, "I'm considering taking a room at South Wing for a few weeks to let things settle in."

Office teaches interviewing art

The University Placement Services is sponsoring an interviewing workshop today from 3 to 4 p.m. in 209 Hanes Hall. According to Jerry Bourdeaux, a UPS assistant director, "It is the interview that ultimately gets you the job. If you do not sell yourself in the interview, you will not be hired."

The workshop will cover all phases of the interviewing process. Initially, effective strategies for obtaining interviews will be presented. "Many job-seekers make the mistake of waiting to be invited for an interview after writing a letter of interest. This strategy means you play a waiting game," Bourdeaux said.

Counselors will follow through by teaching participants how to sell themselves verbally and nonverbally. They will videotape a mock interview between the potential job seeker and a counselor in the role of an employer, said Bourdeaux.

An appointment can be made for a simulation interview without prior workshop attendance. Call 933-6507 for appointments and further information.

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