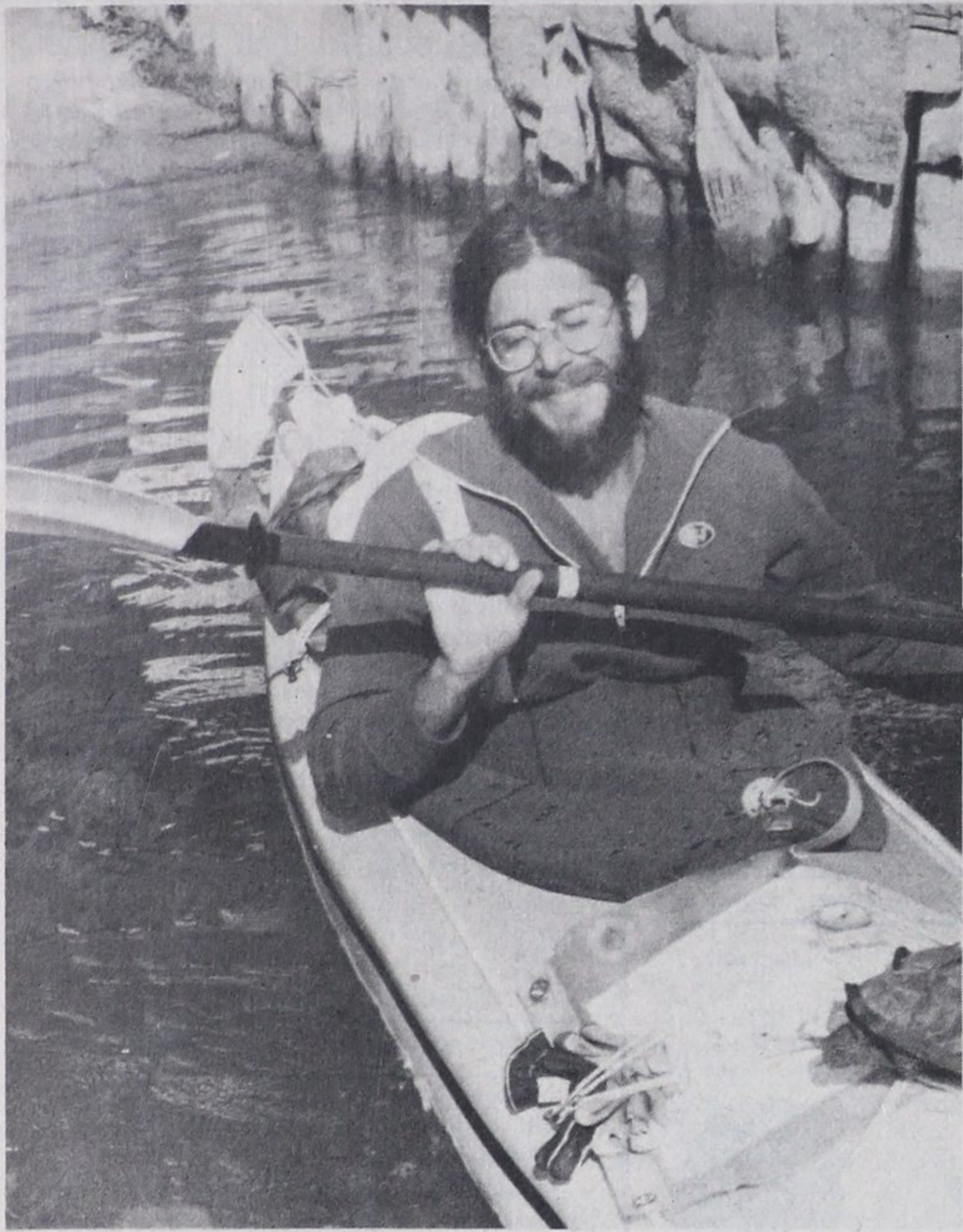


Two-month kayak trip delayed in Wasaga Beach

Ohio native learns lessons from Great Lakes



by Carol Dimock

Exploring the Great Lakes by kayak this summer has been a spiritual as well as a physical journey for Steven Krall. The 29-year old native of Cleveland, Ohio, says his 60 days alone on the water gave him profound insights into the meaning of life and man's relationship to the earth. He also learned something about Canadian hospitality.

Krall's kayak was blown into Wasaga Beach on September 9, after a two-month journey over 670 miles. He had tried to make Collingwood, from Lafontaine beach, when unfavorable winds decided his destination for him. He left his kayak on the beach at Wasaga, and went to the restaurant. When he returned, his clothes and binoculars were missing.

Krall was befriended by Jack Fleming, of Wasaga Marine, who offered Krall a place to sleep. In the meantime, Fleming's colleagues Bing Jowett and David Wilde alerted the Chamber of Commerce

and Businessmen's Associations in Wasaga Beach to Krall's plight.

He was invited to the opening of the Oktoberfest celebration at the Hotel Waldhorn, where the businessmen presented him with \$50, the Chamber with another \$50; George McCague, MPP presented him with a pin, the mayor a town pin, and everyone offered him best wishes and the town's regrets for the misfortune that befell him there. "People are basically good", said Krall. "Its people like Jack that make a trip worthwhile."

Krall's journey began in Sarnia two months ago, when he decided to paddle around the Great Lakes in search of insights into the relationship between the land, its people and the lakes. He carried food, a camp stove and a tent in the boat, stopping to camp along the way. On the first leg of his journey, he paddled from Sarnia to Tobermory, keeping about three to five miles offshore to avoid the danger of breaking water.

At Tobermory, he made friends with some people who offered him a lift in their truck, with his kayak, to Sault Ste. Marie. Since it didn't matter in which order he explored the lakes, Krall accepted their offer.

The journey from Sault Ste. Marie, down the Northern Channel, was an ordeal of heat and glare. With temperatures in the 100's day after day, water like glass, and intense haze over everything, Krall "Found myself bobbing in a daze, a dreamlike state. Long-distance travel in a small boat is literally an altered state of reality. Every moment goes on forever."

At Little Current, he phoned home to Cleveland and learned that his father was scheduled for heart surgery. Krall abandoned his kayak, and his trip and hitchhiked home to be with his family. When his father recovered, he came back and found his boat in good order.

Krall enjoyed the next leg of the journey, from Little Current to Honey Harbour, through the

30,000 islands of Georgian Bay.

"The islands are like a riot of life, with hundreds of little passages just right for a kayak to slip through. It was much more interesting than the Northern Channel- I could gauge my progress much better. "It was like travelling through the suburbs of Utopia," Krall said, referring to the cottages, kids with their own speedboats and windsurfers, endless summer fun in a paradise-like setting.

That's My Line

All was not perfect in Paradise, however. On thing Krall detested was the number of 'Private no trespassing' signs all over the islands. They're ugly and unnecessary.

"I feel I have the right to travel in North America, sleep on the ground when I'm tired. We're reaching a point, as the world becomes more populated, that people may not be able to do as what I'm doing."

Krall ran into a Labour Day traffic jam in Honey Harbour, where waves thrown up by large power boats often threatened to smash his kayak on the rocks.

"In the more urban areas, people were less likely to slow down for

me. Some even seemed to speed up, and then watch to see how I handled it.

Krall's confidence was not shaken by irresponsible boaters, or by any other hardship or difficulty he has encountered on his voyage.

"I don't believe in fear, or even in worry. Concern might be appropriate. Because I'll die, that's no reason not to live.

"This has taken a certain amount of experience and a lot of

common sense. Judgement and patience is needed, to figure out when to paddle and when to wait. I'm like a gambler, working with odds. The margin is much smaller now; ever since Labour Day, when the weather changed, I've been able to paddle only about half the time."

Krall is still waiting, at the home of Jack Fleming in Wasaga Beach, for weather conditions to permit him to leave for home.

We're glad you asked!

Jim Lynn
Funeral Director



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WHAT SHOULD THE DECEASED WEAR?

Clothing helps to express the unique characteristics of an individual. Even in death, clothing can convey the special personality of the deceased. In the planning of funeral details, the matter of clothing for the deceased should not be overlooked.

Has there been a request in the past from the deceased concerning his or her own feelings? Sometimes a uniform of office or volunteer leadership has been requested, because of the significance to the deceased. Medals and jewellery may be considered to complete the uniform or dress.

Is clothing worn by the deceased during lifetime appropriate? By all means. A suit or dress which was a particular favourite of the deceased - or the survivor - may be the prime consideration.

We invite your questions and will answer them privately or publicly through this column.

JL James H. Lynn **OF**
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CITIZEN



OF THE YEAR 1982-83

Could it be someone YOU know?

The Midland Civitan Club once again is hosting our annual Citizen of the Year Award.

In order to nominate the person whom you think would qualify - simply fill in his or her name below and complete a resume on the person. The person nominated only need be a resident of Huronia and must have contributed to the community on a Voluntary Basis.

Deadline for receiving nominations is September 16, 1983. Judging will be done by a representative of the Midland Civitans Club,

and one from the Midland Times.

The person who is selected as Citizen of the Year 1982-1983 will be presented with a plaque in recognition of their services. They will also have their name inscribed on our annual plaque as well as being honoured by the Midland Civitan Club at the annual Awards night Oct. 1.

Making a nomination in itself is an act of appreciation for good citizenship. All nominations should be received by September 16th, 1983.

Please send your nominations to:
Midland Civitan Club
P.O. Box 254, Midland, Ontario L4R 4L1
or drop it off at
The Midland Times,
309 King Street, Midland, Ontario. L4R 4L3

Name of nominee: _____

Address: _____

Qualifications or Contributions: _____

Nominator: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

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