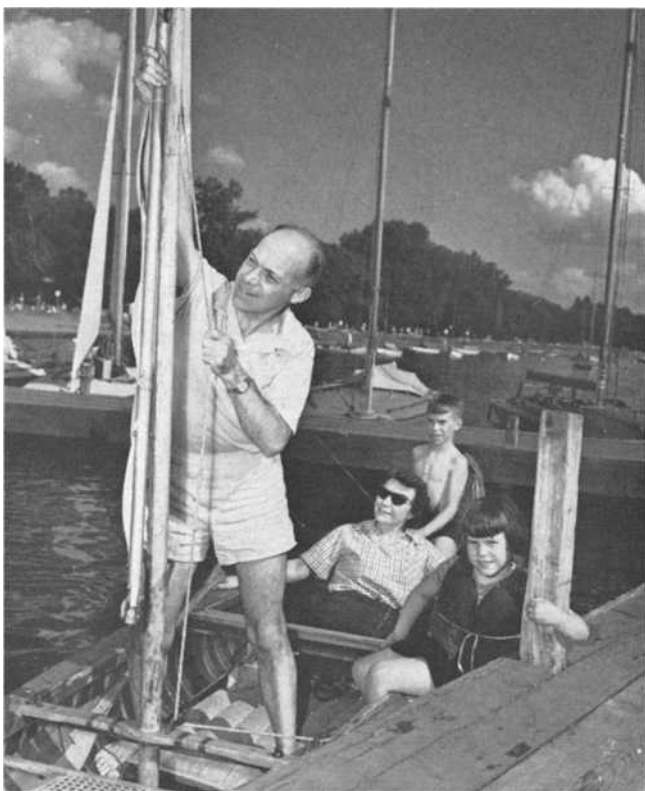


## • Hobby Department

FROM D.H. Wheeler (1938), of General Mills Inc., Minneapolis, have been received such sprightly notes that no editorial pencil has been wielded. Here they are, practically verbatim.

*Skiing.* Never had skis on my feet until I came to Minnesota. Decided that if I was going to live here, I should learn to have fun with snow as well as to shovel it off the walks. So the whole family (wife Betty, son John—future chemist? now 19 and a sophomore at Oberlin College, daughter Joan—future musician? now 14 in high school) took skiing lessons for three winters in classes run by the City Park Board. We frequently go on skiing trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Cross-country skiing holds interest equal to slalom skiing ever since John raced cross-country in high school and convinced the rest of the family of the virtues of cross-country skiing for pleasure.

*Canoeing.* Have had a canoe ever since we found the delights of Minneapolis and northern Minnesota lakes for canoeing and swimming. Made a sail rig for the canoe (including sewing of the sail), which we have sailed for many years on Minneapolis lakes. The middle of a lake is a most enchanting setting from which to observe moon, stars, shooting stars, and satellites on a midsummer's night. Family often takes canoe camping trips in northern Minnesota, "Land of 10,000 Lakes."



As adviser to an Explorer Scout post, have taken canoe trips with 14- to 18-year-old Explorer Scouts. One was from Lake Itasca, source of the Mississippi river (where you can step across it on stones), to Cass Lake, through which it flows some 100 miles down-stream. (How many people will believe that we were farther north at the end of the river trip than at the start? The Mississippi flows north from its source, then east, and finally south.) The river was low so there were many places where we had to lead the canoes or portage them where we had expected rapids according to the map. Some 17 patches on the one wood-canvas canoe added interest.

*Water Nonsense.* Have made a sailing air mattress: a wooden frame, onto which an air mattress can be strapped, with rig for holding a small sail, keel, and rudder. A swimming suit is proper attire since one lies on the mattress,

steering the rudder with the feet, holding the sheet with one hand, and more or less holding onto the whole rig with the other hand.

Also made a pair of "walk-on-water" skis by building urethane foam compartments onto ordinary water skis, with enough buoyancy to hold one up. Flaps on the bottom of the skis aid walking, and foam blocks on ski poles help maintain balance. This unusual rig enables one to "water-ski" while being pulled by a canoe. It is quite a problem though when one falls over into the water with these contraptions on.

Present project is to make canoe paddles out of styrofoam and then coat them with fiber-glass cloth and epoxy resin. The first one was tried out recently, only a few days before the lake started to freeze. It was a very nice paddle, about one-third to one-half less weight than a wooden paddle of comparable size. Am thinking of trying to make a canoe in a similar way, heat-form styrofoam over aluminum canoe as a mold, cement sections together, and cover with fiber-glass and epoxy resin. A nice hobby for long winter evenings, thinking about it, that is. If it works, will report later. If not, GLUB, GLUB, GLUB!

At this point the notes end (great fun, weren't they?), and the editor takes over. Dr. Wheeler, as written up in *Progress Thru Research* (General Mills) in the fall of 1951, has had a long and distinguished career, after acquiring these letters: B.A. (Oberlin College), M.S. and Ph.D. (University of Maryland). Moving along with the smoothness of an assembly line, he has proceeded from a research fellowship with the Mayonnaise Manufacturers' Association to the U.S. Treasury Department, to the Soybean Regional Laboratory at Urbana, Ill., to the Northern Regional Laboratory at Peoria, and then in 1943 to General Mills. There has been more moving along, all within the General Mills complex, and his present title is head, chemical research department, research laboratory. By the way, D.H. stands for Donald Hyde, and he was born in Columbus, O., in 1905. In the third year of the Mattiello Lecture series, which was established in 1948, he was chosen lecturer and gave a paper on "The Thermal Polymerization of Esters of Unsaturated Fatty Acids."

Dr. Wheeler, sportsman and scientist, is also an organization man. His A.O.C.S. activities have included membership in such committees as Advertising, Education, and Fatty Acid Award. He has also served as one of the associate editors for the *Journal* and is currently chairman of the special Bond Award Committee. Plainly, it will never be GLUB, GLUB, GLUB for him.

## • Fatty Acids

November production of fatty acids classified under Categories No. 1 to No. 12 totalled 41.4 million pounds, up 2.0 million pounds from October and up 0.4 million pounds from November 1959, according to the Fatty Acid Producers' Council, New York. Production of tall oil fatty acids as defined by Category No. 13 was 7.0 million pounds compared to 7.8 million pounds in October.

Disposition of all fatty acids, except Category No. 13, amounted to 40.5 million pounds compared to 43.0 million pounds in October 1960, and 41.8 million pounds in November last year. For Category No. 13 disposition totalled 7.2 million pounds. Disposition, as a total of all types now in the census, was 47.7 million pounds in November *versus* 52.3 million pounds the previous month.

Finished goods inventories for Categories No. 1 to No. 12 were 48.2 million pounds on November 30, up 3.0 million pounds from the October 31 level. Work-in-process stocks, as a total for all categories, was 21.2 million pounds, down 0.1 million pounds from the end of October.

## Elected Secretary

Agustin Contijoeh-Mestres (1959), Licenciado C. Quimicas, of Barcelona has been elected secretary of the Spanish Cosmetic Chemists' Society. He would like to further contacts between the A.O.C.S. and his organization.