

R. Pathe



A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Release

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, MONTREAL

Prod. No. 60-323-4

Production: Isobel Kehoe
Cameraman: Richard Schuler

FLIN FLON FIESTA

FLIN FLON FEATURES TRAPPERS - FISHERMEN - MINERS - AT NORTHERN MARDI-GRAS

TROUT FESTIVAL BRINGS IN GIANT 44 POUND TROUT
80 MILE CANOE RACE FOR AMATEURS AND PROS

.....

FLIN FLON, Manitoba? July, 1960.

Flin Flon is a thirty year old copper mining town situated in the exact middle of Canada. Born in the late twenties it prospered in the hungry thirties and today boasts the highest average payroll in the Dominion of Canada. Its located at the end of highway in Northern Manitoba -- 3200 driving miles and five days from Montreal. But don't let these figures throw you. It sounds remote and it is on the Northern Frontier of Canada's vast undeveloped hinterland, but this town has a four day summer festival that is unique. It has everything -- international fish derby -- a now famous international canoe race for both professionals and amateurs -- a complete midway -- and a full day of Indian events from flour packing contest to log rolling.

The area fairly shouts "open sesame" to the thousands of tourists heading for the "big fish" that didn't get away. Dozens of cold water lakes hide the big big trout - the 20 to 30 and 40 pound variety -- the firm Northern pike -- the big 1 1/2 pound perch -- fishermen from all over the north western U.S. come to Flin Flon at this time every year to take home that big one to stuff for the game room wall - the one they can always talk about.

From the south by car, from the far north by plane and from outlying areas by canoe come the visitors, the miners and geologists with their families, and the local Indian trappers. Twenty-two entrants took part in one of the roughest 80 mile grinds in North America - the International Canoe Derby. Each day an average of 26 miles is paddled around the town limits, out into the open country, across portages, and into the open lakes. The Indians compete in the professional class for \$2,000. in prizes. The amateurs compete as olympic material to represent Canada. Cheered on by visitors and Flin Floners at every possible vantage point the natives paddle as their forefathers did centuries ago and as they still do today in tending their ~~expensive~~ traplines. One of the teams paddled 45 miles to reach Flin Flon for the Derby. With an aggregate time of 19 hours and 49 minutes for the 80 miles *KARL KETTER* won the pro class and *NORM CERRAR* won the amateur class with a time of *G. B. McEACHERN, FLIN FLON* minutes. Watch for these boys!

But lo the poor fishermen! Where are those ones we only hear about. The diehards have been out for days morning until nite to their secret spots - coming into the weigh master with those big ones but keeping their rendezvous areas the deepest of mysteries. Where did they catch that one? Oh, out there, but anyone can do it. --they are there -- see for yourself!

IRVING PETERSEN, MINNEAPOLIS USA
G. B. McEACHERN, FLIN FLON

X-55500

We went out to see for ourselves and did many others -- just for a couple of hours -- boy they were there -- and a nice four and a quarter pound northern pike was our picture reward. Our fisherman was so proud and wandered through town to the weigh master to check up on his solid beauty. His eyes nearly popped when he saw the scales. For there, hanging by the gills was the biggest -- ugliest -- but most beloved 44 pound Trout anyone could imagine. Oh well but for the matter of a decimal point his 4.4 lb. trout might have been that 44 pounder. Yes, the north is where trout reigns supreme and tries to elude the fishermen in lakes up to 400 and 500 feet deep.

For the spectator there's nothing to top the northern Indian contests on Beaver Lake day. Contestants from Indian settlements across the north gather to take part. Flour Packing contest is the biggest crowd pleaser. This is where bulky muscular Indian men and women pack up to 700 pounds of flour on their backs a distance of 50 yards. The winner goes home with all the flour he can carry. Enough to feed a good sized family all winter. "CHICAGO" BILL KOWAL packed 600 pounds. Anyone for a tussel with CHICAGO BILL

Bannock baking and tea boiling over an ~~open~~ open fire give the women a chance at domestic contests. North pole climbing, fish filleting, and an old time jigging contest give the Indians a chance to take home plenty of cash prizes.

For two days and nights the main street of Flin Flon is closed off to traffic. Midway attractions, outdoor shows and street dancing fill the daily bill. The teens jitterbug in Flin Flon like the kids in Montreal or Vancouver. There's never a dull moment and festival officials ~~ix~~ defy anyone to find time for sleeping during the four days in this northern fishermen's haven.

So if you want a good vacation, fantabulout fishing - golfing - choice of three dances every nite - swimming - boating - come to Flin Flon - but bring your

s t a y a w a k e

p i l l s!

- 3
0 -