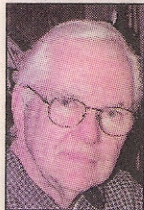


Author shares his dad's lifelong love of fishing

By Orlan Love
The Gazette

Summing up three-quarters of a century's fishing and camping trips in Minnesota and Ontario, the late Alfred Krejca of Cedar Rapids said he "saw a lot, did a lot, fished a lot, did OK."

His adventures have been recorded in a book, "A North Woods Fisherman's Story," written and published by his son, William Krejca of Robins.



William Krejca
Robins

The 162-page book includes scores of photos documenting Krejca's north woods trips from 1926 through 1997 — three years

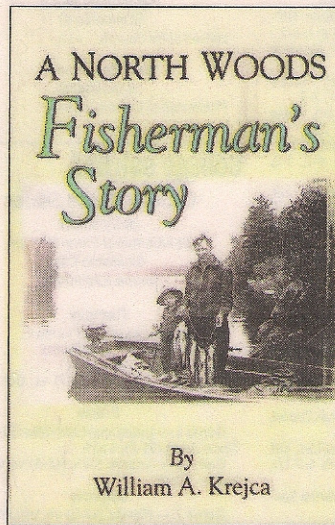
before he died at age 95.

The author, who made his first trip north with his parents as a baby in 1939, experienced many of his dad's adventures and relied upon oft-told stories and "a rich paper trail of diaries, letters, pictures, receipts and maps" for the rest.

The documentation includes a postcard Krejca sent to his co-workers at a Cedar Rapids bakery, demonstrating he knew how to elicit angler envy: "We arrived at Lake of the Woods, the weather is sure cool. I feel sorry for you boys. Am going out to get the big ones now. Everyone's getting a plenty."

The author said his dad enlivened his stories with gestures such as a slow, pulsating vertical hand movement that conjured images of powerful fish.

"His enthusiasm and addiction to the north woods contributed to his ability to tell a story which left his listeners wishing they could have been there with him, perhaps bouncing along riding shotgun in his 1926 Whippet, or exploring Lake of the Woods in the



Krejca family

The cover of "A North Woods Fisherman's Story" shows Al Krejca and his son, William, the author of the book, at Turtle Portage on the Canadian side of Lake of the Woods in the early 1940s.

1930s," William Krejca wrote.

The author's own love of fishing and the wilderness, as well as his love of the man who instilled in him his apprecia-

tion of nature, shines through on every page.

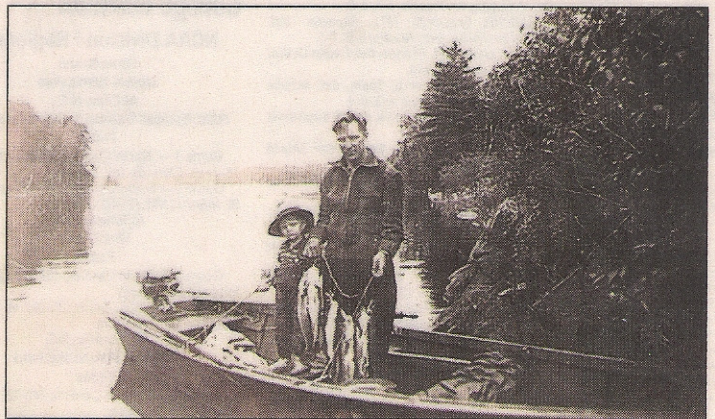
Acknowledging that it's "a love story," Krejca said he wrote the book to document 20th-century outdoor life in the north country, to share and preserve his dad's wilderness adventures and to heighten the awareness of today's youth that within "many an old person's bent body beats a heart once filled with unending energy that sought out adventure..."

The book details the adventurers' camping and fishing equipment, including Al Krejca's first outboard motor, his "pride and joy," a four-horsepower Junior Neptune bought wholesale in 1936 for \$50.

Krejca, whose e-mail handle is bigfishbill, taught fishing techniques and rod and tackle making at Kirkwood Community College for many years. Accounts of his family's north woods adventures have been published in The Gazette.

The book sells for \$12.95 a copy and can be ordered from the author's Web site, www.billkrejca.com

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Family photo

The late Al Krejca of Cedar Rapids shows off a nice stringer of fish caught while fishing with his son, William, at Turtle Portage on the Canadian side of Lake of the Woods in the early 1940s. William Krejca of Robins has published a book, "A North Woods Fisherman's Story," about his dad's fishing and camping adventures.