

ANGLER PLUCKED FROM BURT LAKE ICE
BURT LAKE, EMMET COUNTY, MICHIGAN

SURPRISED ANGLER PLUCKED FROM BREAKING BURT LAKE ICE

Extracted Petoskey-News Review



Unaware that he was in any great danger yesterday, Robert A. Kline, 35, Petoskey, was picked off the ice two miles from shore on the east arm of Burt Lake yesterday by a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter from Traverse City where he was fishing alone—and said the fish were just starting to bite.

Fishing through 18 to 24 inches of solid ice, Kline, who went out at 6 a.m. was in no immediate danger. He did not know that pressure breaks had occurred along the shore causing open areas of water up to 50 feet with depths up to four feet.

He was fishing alone. Stan Thompson, Brutus; Bob Engle, sr. and Bob Engle, jr. of Oden were going out on the ice and turned back when they went through just off shore. Thompson attempted to reach solid ice from shore with the aid of a small boat but gave up also. When the breach widened, the Engles went for help while Thompson kept a watch on Kline.

State police from Cheboygan called Petoskey who relayed the message to the Coast Guard helicopter from Traverse City. The pickup was made shortly after 1 p.m.

The rescue was completed by Lt. Commander L. Hubert, pilot; Lt. Commander G. R. Decker, copilot and AD/3 Norman Hogg, crew member. On shore directing operations were Sgt. Frank Ferrando, commanding officer of the Cheboygan post, Michigan State Police and trooper Jerry Mausolf.

THE COMMUNICATION between the police and the helicopter had to be made in a relay from Sgt. Ferrando to Corporal John Lewinski of the Petoskey post who radioed to the Cheboygan state police cruiser near Indian River that had a portable unit capable of reaching the Coast Guard helicopter.

Back on land, Kline, who is an expert fisherman, told police he saw the cruisers on shore with their lights blinking but figured there was an accident on the highway.

"**THEN, JUST** when the cisco started biting good, the helicopter came up over my head and the downdraft from the blades sent my gear whirling across the ice. They dropped a note to me saying the ice had broken up along the shore and they were going to pick me up," Kline said. He pulled up his lines and brought them back, along with his fish he had caught.

PETOSKEY ICE FISHERMAN Robert A. Kline, 35, right, Petoskey, tells AD/3 Norman Hogg of the Traverse City based U. S. Coast Guard helicopter rescue unit and Sgt. Frank Ferrando, commanding officer of the Cheboygan post, Michigan State Police, that he was unaware of any danger surrounding him yesterday at Burt Lake where he was picked off the ice. Pressure cracks had opened along the shore and other fishermen thought it endangered him so they summoned help. He was fishing two miles out when picked up by the helicopter in the background.

(News-Review photo by Fred Lovelace)