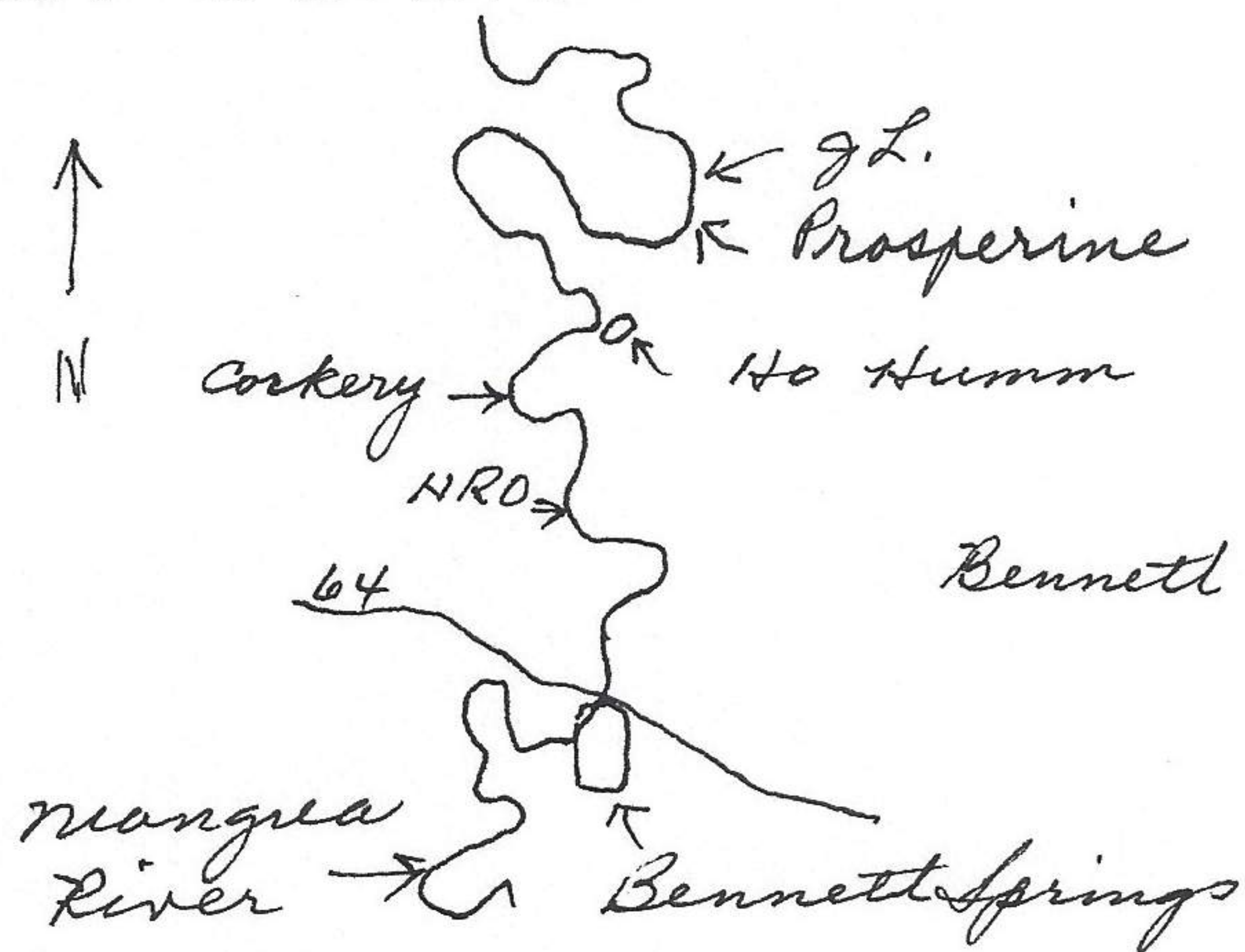


Meramec State Park, Missouri.

June 24, 1984

This park has some excellent deciduous forests and river bottomlands. Continued SW on highway 44 to Bennett Springs where I met James R. Bee. We conoed from Bennett Springs down the Niangua to Ho Humm take-out. where the owner drove us back to Bennett Springs. Conoe and shuttle = \$19.00.



Bennett Springs to Ho Humm Campgrounds 9 mi.  
(5 hrs)

The Niangua River is no 1 (difficult in degree) and except for 2 riffles that go into 90° bank on turns is negotiated. About 8 stretches of riffles between smooth water could be portaged by beginners if needed. Slow stretches need paddling unless you have unlimited time or if wind is against you. Good trout fishing entire route. Bird life in middle of day uncommon. no hawks but observed 4 turkey vultures. This Sunday there were almost continuous groups of canoeists on river, week day a decided drop in use of river.

James R. left in evening and I remained at Bennett Springs for the night. Trout fishermen were almost all guaranteed the limit of 5. Black ant popular. Also the less truists use a foam like bobber about 5' from hook and instead of retrieving entire line to rear and then casting as is usual procedure, they draw pole length of line and then throw a loop forward that picks up the bobber and extends the fly forward. Fishermen clean fish and throw intrals back into stream which becomes an insightly spot in the river. They should be required to clean fish on land and dispose of fish refuse.

Bennett Springs, Niangua River, Missouri.

June 25, 1984

Temp to 55°F last night. Left and drove back to Lawrence.