Martha Rebentisch came to Saranac Lake as a tuberculosis patient. Three and a half years later, in 1931, age 25 and severely debilitated by TB, she left Trudeau Sanatorium against medical advice. She placed herself in the care of guide Fred Rice to take her camping on Weller Pond, and she never looked back. The woods, waters, weather and wildlife became her world. For more than 20 years she kept journals which eventually became her three books. A fourth completed manuscript was lost at the time of her death.

Today, Martha’s lyrical, fascinating and accurate observations of her Adirondack world are as fresh as ever. Finances were always tight, but C. V. Whitney paid $10,000 for the rights to make a film of The Healing Woods. The film was never completed, but with the money Martha was able to purchase a small rustic camp on the Saranac River near Bloomingdale.

All the places Martha and Fred camped in warm weather and lived in winter during their Adirondack sojourn are shown on the map on the reverse. The information in this brochure is by Betsy Tisdale of Potsdam, NY, who has researched Martha’s life and written a Master’s thesis analyzing her three books. The map was drawn by Nancy Bernstein.
The World of Martha Reben and Fred Rice

Invited by Sonny Whitney to camp at his estate at "Fat (Flat) Fish Pond" 1956-57

Upper Saranac Lake

Saranac Lake Village

General Hospital of Saranac Lake 1964

Lake Flower

Saranac River

to Lake Placid

to Bloomingdale Camp on Saranac River 1958-62