



# REFLECTIONS



NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

## 1993 Alumni Reunion Biggest and Best Yet

As predicted, the 1993 Sommers Alumni Reunion was (by all accounts) the biggest and the best yet! Over 120 alumni, their families, and guests attended dinner on Saturday evening. The crowd began gathering on Friday, and spent the evening renewing old friendships, making new ones, and watching a series of 50's through 80's "promotional films" which have been transferred to video cassette (Let us know if you would like a copy if it were to be made available). On Saturday morning, **Sandy Bridges** and **Joe Mattson** hosted "round-robin" sessions on the current and future program — including everything from base and trail operations, to food, equipment, staffing, and the upcoming construction projects (see **Message from Sandy** in this issue).

Following the Annual Meeting of the SAA membership that afternoon, there was time for many pictures, as well as for visiting with **Joe Seliga** (canoe builder), "**Jackpine**" **Bob Cary** (guide, artist, writer), and invited guests **Angela Cook** (Kawishiwi District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service), and **Todd Indehar** (Conservationists With Common Sense).

Following dinner — reputed by **Sandy** as the largest single dining hall meal of the summer — the original of a **Bob Cary** portrait of **Joe Seliga** was presented to Joe, and Bob treated all of us to a memorable talk on Ojibwe culture. Later that evening, it is reported that several Alumni trekked into Ely to visit **Dee's** and to dance to

the music of the **BOPCATS** (yes 60's alums, they're still playing!). Others gathered in the Lodge with guitars and songbooks for an "Old Time Charlie's Songfest."

On Sunday, there were canoe trips to Prairie Portage, boat trips up the Moose Chain, and airplane rides over the area. As the day drew to a close, the conversation naturally turned to the next Reunion. It will be held over the Labor Day weekend in 1995, and the organizing committee is composed of **Dave Greenlee**, **Dave Sitzler**, **Mark Nordstrom**, **Ray Mattson**, and **Roy Cerny**. Let us know if you have any ideas or would like to help. We'll let them know.

Following is our best recollection of those attending the Alumni Reunion. See if you can recognize any of these people in the photos in this issue. **Torben Anderson**, **Rick Ball**, **Al Batterman**, **Rich Batter-**

**man**, **Tom Beaton**, **Zane Beaton**, **Henry Bradlich**, **Sandra Bridges**, **Clyde "Sandy" Bridges**, **Jim Brown**, **J. Scott Brown**, **Paul Bruns**, **Charles Carter**, **Bob Cary**, **Roy Cerny**, **Paul Cerny**, **Don Christensen**, **John Christiansen**, **Lee Christianson**, **Chris Clay**, **Paul Coler**, **Roy Conradi**, **Cyd (Diesslin) Cooper**, **Nigel Cooper**, **Jeff Dahl**, **Jon Dahl**, **Robin Davidson**, **Roger Dellenger**, **Butch Diesslin**, **Larry Gaalaas**, **Dave Greenlee**, **Larry Hanson**, **Chris Hartman**, **Wade Herbranson**, **Bryan Heusinkvelt**, **Tom Holleran**, **Burt Hyde**, **Dave Hyink**, **Christine Kolbe**, **Wes Leiker**, **Harry Lambirth**, **Mary Lambirth**, **Joe Mattson**, **Ray Mattson**, **Thor Mickelson**, **Roger Miller**, **Mark Nordstrom**, **Bob Oliva**, **John Oosterhuis**, **Jay Poole**, **Bill Quinn**, **Lynn Reeve**, **Alan Rench**, **Bob Renner**, **Kimberly Renner**, **Linnea Renner**, **Brent**

**Richards**, **Chuck Rose**, **Louis Sabatini**, **Joe Seliga**, **Chuck "J.J." Sheely**, **Dave Sitzler**, **Wes Stone**, **Dan Stoops**, **Bob Suter**, **Mike Tuttle**, **Milt Vollmer**, **Jay Walne**, **Dan Wangerin**, and **Larry Whitmore**. Why not plan on having your name on this list in 1995?

No story on the Reunion would be complete without grateful acknowledgment of the hard work by the kitchen and childcare "staff." Thanks go to **Al Batterman** (cook on Friday and Saturday), **Shiela Christiansen** (cook on Sunday and Monday), **Brent Richards** (1993 Guide Chief and "utility infielder"), **John Christiansen** (service project coordinator and bottle-washer), **Butch Diesslin** (local arrangements slave), and **Sandra** and **Daniella Bridges** and **Jon Hyink** (childcare, kitchen, you-name-it). We couldn't have done it without you!





## Tidbits On The Sommers Clan

**Anthony ('86-88) and Nicholas ('90) Altieri** are students at the University of Minnesota at Duluth.

**Christopher Baker ('86)** graduated from medical school at the University of Colorado.

**David Barrett ('83-84,'87)** is a Captain in the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

**Dennis Breen ('74-83)** is a ski instructor and guide for Overseas Adventure Travel.

**Michael Breen ('74-77)** is a self-employed physician in Austin, TX.

**Paul Bruns (Advisor '68-78, Committee Member '75-present)** owns Mel's IGA Supermarket in Orr, MN.

SAA Treasurer **Nigel Cooper ('77,'79-80)** works for SeparaTech in the Twin Cities.

**Jeff Dahl ('69-73)** is a radiographer/sonographer in Bisbee, AZ.

**Roger Dellinger ('80-81)** is an engineer in St. Louis, MO.

SAA Director and Secretary **Blaine "Butch" Diesslin ('61-66,'68-79,'81)** is a Physics Instructor and Computer Coordinator at Vermilion Community College in Ely.

**Keith C. "Maynard" Gutierrez ('82-85,'87)** is Director of Sales for Footner & Co. in Baltimore, MD.

**Dale Hanson ('70)** (and self-described "Base Pest" '57-69) works for the Bureau of Land Management in Eugene, OR.

**Randall Howerton ('82)** is an Obstetrician/Gynecologist at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO.

**Gregory Kvam ('68-74)** is an attorney in Minneapolis and legal advisor to SAA.

**Joseph Miller ('87)** is a Master Automotive Technician for Anderson Automotive in Minneapolis.

**Kevin Parsons ('84)** is a mechanical engineer in Minneapolis.

**Kevin Peterson ('68)** is a grain merchandiser in Salina, KS.

**Louis Sabatini ('69-72)** is a home builder and remodeler in Silver Springs, MD.

**Paul Schlieve ('70-'81)** is a university professor at the University of North Texas and since 1988 a member of the Northern Tier Committee.

**Joel Sheagren ('74-75,'77)** is a self-employed commercial photographer in the Twin Cities.

**Steve Spencer ('72-79)** is an engineer for Sverdrup Aerospace Technologies in Huntsville, AL.

**Mike Tuttle ('59-63)** is a self-employed investor in Atlanta, GA.

**Dan Wangerin ('69-71)** is a Graphics Instructor at Moraine Park Technical College in West Bend, WI.

**Dennis Wogaman ('73-85)** is a plant manager for Tender Corp. in Littleton, NH.

## Alumni Association Directors and Officers

Director/President (2)*	Dave Hyink	(206) 863-6406
Director/Secretary (2)	Butch Diesslin	(218) 365-6904
Director (2)	Roy Conradi	(404) 496-0920
Director (1)	Zane Beaton	(612) 861-4930
Director (1)	John Christiansen	(417) 646-8214
Director/Vice Pres. (1)	Barry K. Bain	(612) 944-5178
Director (3)	Lorri Hanson	(503) 744-2814
Director (3)	Jay Walne	(901) 278-2633
Director (3)	Dave Greenlee	(605) 428-5967
Treasurer	Nigel Cooper	(612) 738-1242

\*Number in parentheses is years remaining in current term

### Program Liaisons

Mr. Bill Spice	National Director of High Adventure Philmont Scout Camp, BSA Cimarron, NM 88714 (505) 376-2281
Mr. Sandy Bridges	Director, Northern Tier National High Adventure Program P.O. Box 509 Ely, MN 55731-0509 (218) 365-4811
Mr. Robert La Fortune	Chairman, National High Adventure Committee 427 S. Boston #2104 Tulsa, OK 74103-4132
Mr. Charley Hann	Chairman, Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee 435 Peavey Building 730 Second Ave. So. Minneapolis, MN 55402 (612) 338-9019

## Alumni Directory Planned

At the SAA Annual Meeting, it was decided that an Alumni Directory should be published and made available exclusively to the membership. Plans call for publishing our membership list which includes name, mailing address (last known), and years at Sommers (if known). We plan to make this document available in the early spring

(1994). This information is for the sole use of Sommers Alumni members for personal correspondence. Your consideration in preventing its use for any other purpose is requested. If you do not want your name or other data in this directory, please inform us to that effect by December 31, 1993!



# Annual Membership Meeting Held At Reunion

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. was held on Saturday, September 4, 1993 at the Ely Base. There were approximately 50 members present. Among business conducted at this meeting was the re-election of Directors **Greenlee, Hanson, and Walne** to a full three-year term. Treasurer **Nigel Cooper** reported Association income of \$11,481 (exclusive of the

Lodge Remodeling Project), expenses of \$4798, and a resulting balance of \$6,683. He further reported that an audit of the Association's books revealed no irregularities.

President **Dave Hyink** presented a brief history of the events leading to the formation of the Association, its incorporation as a non-profit organization and subsequent achievement of tax-exempt status. In addition, he reported

on the Association's role in meeting its mission of promotion and support of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs by: (1) informing members and friends about the U.S. Forest Service's proposed management plan for the BWCAW, (2) taking responsibility for raising the necessary funds for

renovating the Charles L. Sommers Lodge, and (3) sponsoring the 1993 Staff Reunion in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of SAA members. A number of other old and new business items are discussed in detail in this issue of *Reflections*. Official copies of the meeting minutes are available upon request.



## SAA Charter Year Closes with 223 Members

The SAA Board of Directors declared the period between our formal incorporation and the 1993 Alumni Reunion (February 14, 1992—September 30, 1993) as our "Charter Year." During that period we planned on recruiting membership, planning the 1993 Reunion, and just getting organized. The BWCAW Management Plan issues were unplanned activities, but all would agree that they provided a "rallying point" that resulted in the rapid formation of a strong and cohesive formal

organization. This was of course possible because of the very strong "informal" organization that had been maintained via "moccasin telegraph" over the years. While we still need to concentrate on membership, we are pleased to report that as of October 15, 1993 we have a total of 223 members: Charter Life - 122, Annual - 62, Sustaining 7, Staff 1, Honorary Charter - 31. Your help in recruiting your close friends and associates will be much appreciated.

## Christiansen To Be Historian

SAA Director John Christiansen has agreed to take on the role of SAA Historian. He will work with Paul Schlieve to compile and archive those

documents, photos, accounts, artifacts, and such, that are a key part of our history. If you have items of a historical nature please let us know.

## Condolences

We are saddened to report the deaths of **Marilyn Ruth Hann**, wife of Northern Tier Committee Chairman, **Charles Hann**; **Don Shank**, long-time Sommers supporter and father of Northern Tier Committee Member, **Dick Shank**; **Dick Sanders**, past Northern Wisconsin Committee Member;

**Mike O'Brien**, former Prairie Portage Ranger and SAA Honorary Charter Member and **George D. Hedrick**, retired Region Ten Scout Executive, devoted supporter of the Base and its programs, and father of SAA member **Michael Hedrick**. We extend our sympathy to their families.

## Honorary Charter Memberships Awarded

At the Annual Meeting of the Sommers Alumni Association membership, the following individuals were nominated and unanimously awarded Honorary Charter memberships: **F.A. Bean, K.G. Bentz, John Budd, Carlos S. Chase, M. G. Clark, Ben Conger, Oren Felton, William C. Finucane, Gary K. Garlitz, Dorothy "Ma" Harry, George D. Hedrick, Robert Hedrick, Paul Love, Horace**

**"Hod" Ludlow, Robert L. Marquart, Fred McCool, Dorothy Molter, C. Fred Moyer, Mike O'Brien, Sigurd F. Olson, H.F. Pote, Dr. E.H. Rynearson, Henry W. Schreiber, Charles L. Sommers, and William Trygg Sr.** They join Honorary Charter Members **Henry Bradlich, Cliff Hanson, Joe Seliga, William "Bill" Stigler, Parley Tuttle, and Dave "Voldi" Welch.**



## President's Message

What a "Charter Year" this has been! From our formal incorporation on February 14, 1992, to our gaining [501(c)(3)] tax-exempt status, through the *best-ever* Alumni Reunion in September, these past months have been nothing but exciting for all of us that have chosen to become involved. That's not to say that there hasn't been a lot of hard work by many dedicated people. No one would deny that. But it shows in living color (what most knew all along) that great things happen when like-minded people unite for the right reasons.

Witness the nearly 700 letters that SAA generated (directly) in support of youth access to the wilderness—not to mention all of the networking, alliance building, and behind-the-scenes experiences. Witness the many thousands of Wilderness Grace cards promoting the Base and its programs that were distributed at the National Jamboree (several thousand by yours truly). Witness the large numbers of Alumni who have volunteered to be "local contacts" to their respective BSA Councils for information on the Northern Tier. The list continues. . . And, we've only just begun!

At the Reunion we chose to honor a long list of distinguished Sommers supporters with Honorary Charter Mem-

ber status. As we did so, a common thread running through many of our thoughts and conversations indicated that we felt "it was pay-back time"! And furthermore, that it was important to us that we perpetuate the "spirit and actions" of those individuals with the vision and dedication over the last 70 years to "make the experience happen"—not only for our predecessors, but for us, and for our successors. It was magic!

It was magic as well, to see history come alive for my son Jon, as he paged through the 1966-70 Isle of Pines Guest Books at the Dorothy Molter Museum, finding names of Sommers Guides he's come to know over the past few years. And, I don't think you really needed to be there (but it would have been nice) to understand the magic that occurred when the Lodge echoed with rousing choruses of "The Far Northland" at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

To all of you who have worked hard to make SAA happen—Thanks! To those who have yet to join our ranks, SAA offers each of you the opportunity to "find the magic" as we work together to support the Base and its programs, and to perpetuate the spirit of the Far Northland. *Dave*

## Message from Sandy

WHAT A GREAT RE-UNION! For those that were there, thanks for coming. For the rest of you, why not start planning for 1995? The United States Forest Service proposal for BWCAW policies was released in August—The proposal is for a maximum of three water craft, campsites to re-



main about the same. Your support was needed, received and certainly appreciated.

1993 was the 70th year of continuous Scout canoe trips from the Base program. It was a good year in spite of the fact we had to share participants with one of the finest National Jamborees on record. 1993 was one of the safest years we have ever had, a special thanks goes to all of the seasonal staff for a good job well done.

There are presently more reservations for 1994 than participants in 1993.

There are six new "First Night Crew Cabins" at Ely—a perfect place for the crews preparing for their trips into the BWCAW and the Quetico Park.

A new office, outfitting building and staff center have been approved and will be constructed this winter, ready for use next summer. The staff center will occupy the "T" shaped building presently used as the office. At long last, the staff will really have another "TeePee."

The "Fur Trade History Program" is just getting a start. This will involve several different opportunities including Alumni members serving as "Guides" and leaders. We will keep you posted as more plans are made.

The Lodge is coming along nicely—thanks to the generosity of many Alumni. Thank you very much for your help! It is a very special building to all of us.

We are approaching the 21st Century with unlimited opportunities to provide the finest wilderness experiences available to youth and leaders anywhere. You are all a part of this—we look forward to your continued involvement.

## Final Issue To Non-Members

Our mailing list contains some 1000 names and addresses. Throughout our "Charter Year" we mailed all correspondence to everyone on that list. While those of you that are non-members will occasionally receive shortened informational recruiting material, this will be the last issue of *Reflections* that you will receive. Please consider

joining today, so that you don't miss out on any of SAA's news or activities. Whats more—we need your support, and value your participation. We wish that we were financially independent enough to continue publishing and mailing 1000 copies—perhaps in the future? For a membership application, please write to SAA, P.O. Box 428, Ely, MN 55731.





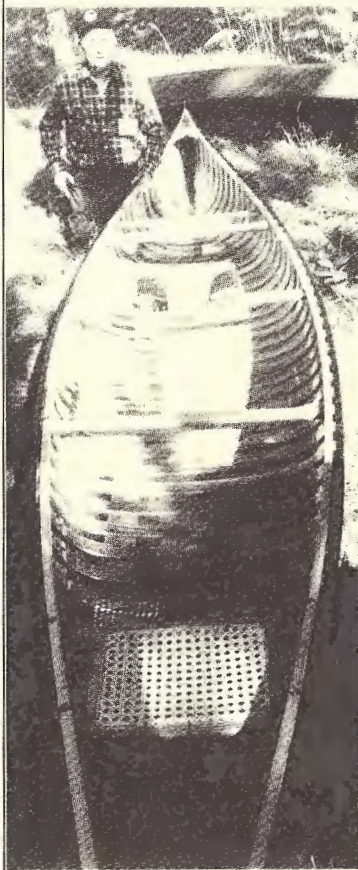
*Citizen of the Northland*  
**Master Canoe Builder Joe Seliga**

By Bob Cary

Almost every day, Ely's dean of wood-and-canvas canoe crafting can be observed in the small frame shop behind his home at 244 E. Pattison St., framing, canvassing, or painting a new canoe. At age 82, Joe is still producing a dozen or so canoes each year, all of them ordered a year ahead of time by wilderness paddlers or collectors of fine canoe craftsmanship. His craft are considered by many to be works of art. By the end of 1993, Joe estimates he will have completed some 600 canoes over 55 years of designing and building. Joe's blue eyes sparkle when he recalls building his first canoe in 1938, a square stern, that sold for \$40. Over the years he settled on the present 17-foot paddle model with cedar ribs and planking, spruce or mahogany gunwales which retails for \$1,800. In 1949 he began building the first of a fleet of paddle canoes used by the Boy Scout Base, Camp Widjiwagan, and outfitter Bill Rom. Some of these canoes are still in use, owned by private individuals. Joe worked at the Zenith Mine at Ely for 17 years, building canoes as a sideline. Now retired, he and Nora, his wife of 61 years, work as a team forming the ribs, nailing on the

planking, stretching and painting the canvas. And they still get into the woods a couple of times each summer, traveling the canoe trails they know so well.

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### **Special SAA Holiday Greeting Cards Available**

Jay Walne is organizing a project to sell SAA holiday greeting cards. These very high quality cards carry a winter scene of the Canoe Base Lodge in black on white. One of the fir trees in the foreground is green with two red cardinals roosting. The inside simply reads Seasons Greetings and the back side contains the statement: The person sending this card has contributed to Sommers Alumni Association's efforts to promote character development and outdoor

skills through wilderness canoeing programs of Northern Tier National High Adventure, BSA and contains the Northern Tier logos and the SAA logo. It's a great way to make a quality statement, about your quality involvement and support, of a quality program! The cost is \$25 for a package of 25 (postage paid). Order them directly from Jay at 1947 Linden Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104. Please make checks payable to Sommers Alumni Association.

### **Reunion T-Shirts For Sale**

We still have a few Sommers Alumni Association 1993 Reunion T-Shirts left for sale. These gray, heavy duty 98% cotton shirts carry SAA's "Twilight Paddlers" logo on the upper-left front. The cost

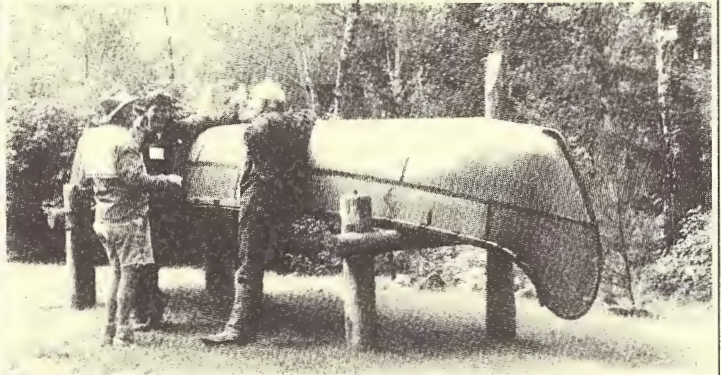
is \$10 postage paid. Please state size S/M/L/XL/XXL when ordering. Limited to sizes on hand. Send check and order to SAA, P.O. Box 428, Ely, MN 55731.





# 1993 Reunion Caught On Film

Photos by Roy Conradi







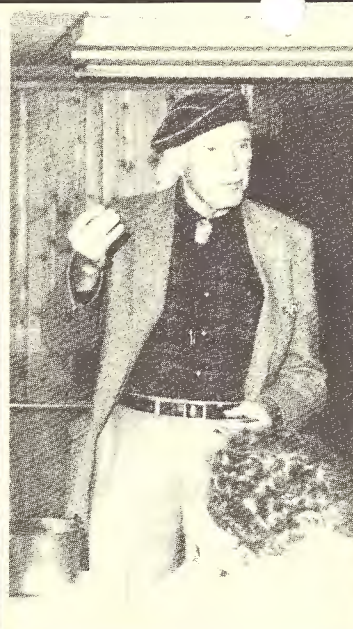
### Reunion Photos Can Be Ordered From Conradi

Reprints of pictures taken during the Reunion can be ordered from Roy Conradi, the "old" Charlie's photographer, who photographed the event. If interested contact Roy at 3882 Cedar Circle, Tucker, Georgia 30084 (404) 496-0920.



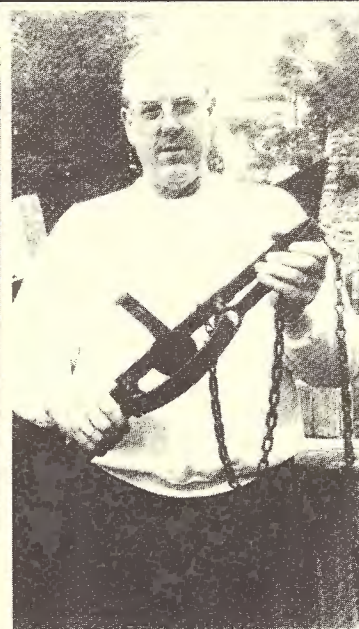
### Membership Cards and Certificates On Their Way

Membership certificates are currently at the printers, and membership cards are complete. These should be forwarded to you within the next few weeks. We appreciate your patience.



### Send Articles, Comments, Jokes to Newsletter

Please forward any articles, comments, news, jokes, cartoons, songs, poetry, or announcements that you would like to consider for publication in upcoming newsletters.



### For Food For Raiment...

As a promotional tool for the Northern Tier High Adventure Programs at the 1993 National Boy Scout Jamboree, the SAA printed and distributed 30,000 copies of the *Wilderness Grace* to Scouts, Scoutmasters, and other Jamboree visitors.



### Dorothy's Root Beer Recipe

**Shake Bottle Before Using**  
1 Bottle Hires Root Beer  
Extract

Pour over 4 lbs. sugar. Add ½ cup root beer syrup, mix well. Then add 4¾ gallons lukewarm water and stir well. Mix ¼ teaspoon dry yeast in cup of lukewarm water and let stand 5 minutes 'till completely dissolved, then add to the root beer mixture and stir well. Bottle at once by filling bottles to 3 inches from top and cap. Lay on sides for about 3 days or more. Let age at least one week in a 70 to 80 degree room.

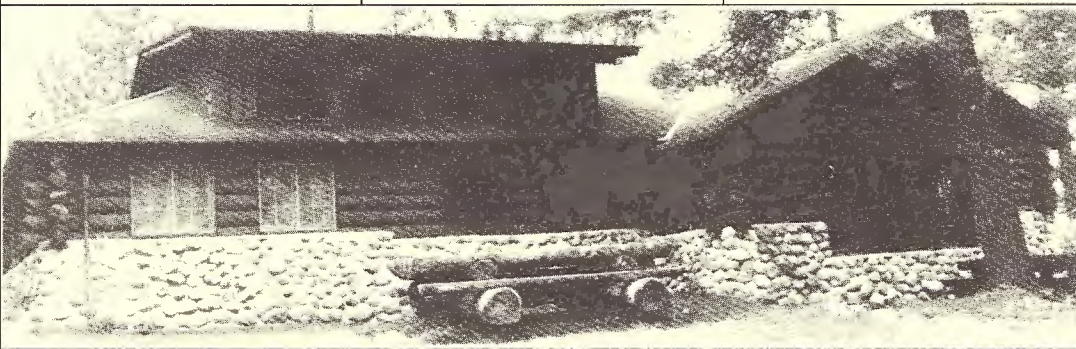
## Lodge Remodeling Project Progressing

Remodeling of the Charles L. Sommers Lodge is coming along slowly but surely. SAA members attending the Reunion saw the familiar exterior but a changed interior — particularly in the east portion of the building that formerly housed such things as offices, living quarters, the Trading Post, and/or kitchen. Removal of the interior walls has left one large L-shaped room with a very impressive log and paddle stairway leading up to the Hedrick Library in the loft. **Bill**

**Quinn** has generously donated his time and has completed most of the interior staining.

Major elements remaining include winterizing the building by insulating the roof, constructing custom storm windows, and adding a heating system. This will now proceed thanks to the generosity of SAA members. Once winterizing is complete, work on the Interpretive Center projects will commence with financial help from the old Region Ten Trust Fund.

Fundraising for SAA's Lodge Remodeling Project is (as of this writing) just \$3000 short of our goal. A one-page letter was sent to each person on our mailing list who had not yet responded. We will close the financial campaign very shortly. Contributions of all sizes are still welcome. Plus, we are continuing to seek a major contributor to fund the completion of the conference center lighting, furnishings and appointments.





# BWCA Management Plan Update

On August 19, 1993, after studying some 4,000 letters from concerned citizens (including nearly 700 of you), the U.S. Forest Service announced its BWCAW Management Plan and Implementation Schedule and the associated Final Environmental Impact Statement. While the vast majority of the changes identified in November 1992 will stand as proposed, two items — dealing with Party Size and Number of Available Campsites — were modified in favor of youth access to the BWCAW. Over 2600 letters commented on the reduction of the maximum size of groups from 10 to 6 persons, and the Final Plan increases that number to 9 persons, with a maximum of three watercraft. In addition, the total number of maintained campsites will remain at approximately

2000, rather than being reduced to 1800 as previously proposed. The principal changes are summarized as follows:

**Entry Point Quotas:** Proposed reducing from 382/day to 276/day (current use is 203/day). Final Plan at 280.5/day.

**Party Size:** Proposed reduction from 10 to 6 persons (no limit on number of watercraft). Final Plan at 9 persons with a maximum of 3 watercraft.

**Motor Quota:** Proposed that overnight motor permits be reduced from 2,561/year to 1,976/year, and day use motor permits be reduced from 10,169/year to 7,902/year. Final Plan as proposed.

**Towboats:** Proposed regulation by special use permit and limited to 29 total operators. Final Plan requires special use permit and the number will be

capped at 1992 level.

**Number of Available Campsites:** Proposed reduction from approximately 2,000 to 1,800 sites. Final Plan contains no substantial reductions.

**Visitor Permits:** Proposed requiring permits year-round (rather than just from May-September). Final Plan as proposed.

**Entry Points:** Proposed water-access entry points be reduced from 62 to 60. Final Plan contains 62 entry points.

**Other Issues:** Final Plan prohibits sailboats/sailboards, removes canoe rests, maintains 183 miles of hiking trails, and requires that dogs be under voice or leash control.

The public has until November 17, 1993 to file written appeals to any provision in the Final Plan. Although an exhaus-

tive study by the SAA Board of Directors revealed no credible facts and data from visitor use surveys or published scientific literature on wilderness impacts to justify the reduction in the number of overnight entry permits from 382 to 280.5, the Board felt that the Final Plan adequately recognized and provided for wilderness access by youth. Therefore, we have no plans to file any appeals. We will, however, monitor appeals by others, and file for status as an Intervenor in any appeal whose outcome could materially affect youth access to wilderness (Intervenor status gives us standing to comment on an appeal).

Once again, our thanks to everyone of you who took time to write and share your views. They made a difference!

**SOMMERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
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