

REGION TEN

WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS

RECORD OF PADDLE AWARDS

NAME	HALL, B. L. (Scouter)
ADDRESS	402 Moore Memorial Bldg., Duluth, Minnesota .
COUNCIL	North Star
DATE OF TRIP	August 3rd - 9th, 1943.
GUIDE	Al Schumann

PADDLE AWARDS :	DATE
BRONZE	9/29/43 - Through Regional Office.
GOLD	
SILVER	

Date Aug 10, 1943

Boy Scouts of America
Region Ten,
1112 Minnesota Building,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Please Print

I hereby apply for the

Bronze Paddle Award

I have completed all requirements for this award (see evidence
attached).

My height is 5' 11 1/2" — (66" Paddle.)

~~Scout~~ or Scouter B. L. Hall

Address 402 Moore Memorial Bldg Duluth, Minn.

Approved by Guide

Al Johnson

Approved by Director

Ed Taylor

Approved by Scout Executive

B. L. Hall asst. Ex.

COUNCIL

Northstar Council

sent 9/29/43 ✓

"DIARY OF REGION 10 CANOE TRIP"

BY

**B. L. HALL
NORTH STAR COUNCIL
DULUTH MINNESOTA**

OUR CANOE TRIP OUT OF THE CHARLES L. SOMMERS (REGION 10) WILDERNESS CANOE BASE

This year for the first time we (the council) sponsored an organized party of nine scouts and myself to take one of the canoe trips which each year takes place out at the region 10 canoe base. This base is located on Meese Lake twenty-two miles northeast of Ely, Minnesota.

AUGUST 3, 1943

WEATHER--CLEAR

8:30 AM We met at the Union Railroad Station to have pictures taken of our departure for the trip by the newspaper. Three boys from Troop 15, Stanley Rawn, Bob Guyer, Roy Hightberg--One boy from Troop 14, Dave Cameron--one boy from Troop 56, Bob Sponberg--one boy from Troop 29, Arne Erickson--one boy from Troop 28, Harold Kinneun,-- one boy from Troop 9, Dick Syversten--one boy from Troop 173 Cloquet, Minnesota, Alexander Antus, and myself made up our party.

9:00 AM The train pulled out and our party took over the observation car with the exception of three people -- a man and his wife and grand-daughter. Later after we were out of Duluth this gentleman came over and introduced himself. He was Mr. Harry F. Schellmeyer, commissioner of school buildings in St. Louis, Missouri. He is also chairman of the St. Louis council camping committee and an acquaintance of my good friends Jack Wright and Lyman Burkholder. I also struck up a conversation with another group of four young women and a man who were taking a canoe trip out of a YWCA base near Ely. The boys of our crew sang scout songs all the way to Ely.

1:15 PM We arrived in Ely and were met by Had Ludew, the base director, with a car and trailer. We immediately packed all our gear in the trailer and went to the hotel for dinner. After dinner we took a walk through Ely and looked at the various displays of camping and fishing equipment. We left Ely around two o'clock in the afternoon and our next stop was at Winton where we all checked in at the immigration office. We arrived at the canoe base at three o'clock where we checked in and received our equipment for the trip. We selected our tents and made our beds for the night. Then Had took us around the base for an inspection tour after which we went swimming.

6:00 PM We had our supper which consisted of pork chops, potatoes and gravy, bread, butter and jam and tea. While we were eating a doe and her fawn deer came down the road past the house to the back of the house where the boys have a salt block. A very pretty sight and so close too.

7:30 PM Bob Sponberg and I took out a canoe for a half hour trip around the island across from the base. The rest of the boys paired off and followed suit. Dave Cameron and Harold Kinneun were close to shore when Dave saw a large fish sunning itself. He reached over the side of the canoe with his hands and flipped the fish into the canoe. It was a sucker.

8:00 PM We put the canoes back on the rack and met with guides in the main hall of the base for instructions and plans for the trip. This included how to pack our packsack and the proper handling of our sack, how to prevent sunburn, what fruits not to eat and other directions. Then we met our two guides, Al Sheeman -- our voyageur guide, and Bing Crosby -- our swamper guide.

A swamper guide is classified as commis swamper or beginner and bourgeois swamper a top swamper.

Voyageur guides are classified as fellows: MILIEUX VOYAGEUR, run of the mill canoeist; AVANT VOYAGEUR, bowman; GOUVERNAIL VOYAGEUR, steersman and expert guide.

Al Sheenan laid out our trip to us on a large wall map and it appeared to be a very entresting trip indeed.

9:30 PM We hit the hay and couldn't sleep and too well due to the untold number of rocks we were sleeping on. I was awakened around eleven by the bears getting into the garbage. It started to rain about one o'clock and kept up the rest of the night.

AUGUST 4, 1943

WEATHER -- DRIZZLE AND RAIN

6:30 AM Get up and packed my sleeping bag and personal equipment. Left quite a lot of personal gear at the base office as I realized I would not use it.

8:00 AM Breakfast --- oatmeal, prunes and tea. (would have preferred a cup of coffee.)

8:30 AM Started out on our trip with five canoes. We were paired off as follows: 1. Dave Cameron, bow and Harold Kinneun, stern; 2. Dick Syversten, stern and Arne Erickson, bow; 3. Alex Antus, bow and Al Sheenan, stern; 4. Roy Highberg, bow, and Bob Sponberg midship and Bob Guyer, stern; 5. Myself, bow, Stanley Rawn midship, and Bing Crosby stern. (We put Bob Sponberg midship as he was starting off on the trip with a smashed toe which he smashed in Duluth a week before.) We paddled up Moose Lake north to Newfound Lake. I saw a buck deer come down to the shore and drink apparently he didn't hear or see us. We then went into Sucker Lake through the narrows, here we saw five bald eagles. They were on several old trees along the shoreline. We also saw a kingfishers nest built on the top of a stump out in the water. Several blue heron flew over us here too. We went on the Prairie Portage and as we were about into shore an amphibian airplane landed on the lake and went into shore to let out the passengers who registered at the Bayley Bay ranger station. We pulled into shore to register and bought our canadian fishing licence (\$1.00 for six days)

11:30 AM Here we ate our lunch --ologna sandwiches. The ranger here had a large dog about the size of a bear and very much of a pest. We had to stand in a circle around our feed or he would push his way through and eat anything that was handy. We started out again and made Prairie Portage into Burke Lake, then a lift portage into Sunday Lake. Here I saw another deer along the shore line also a loon and a kingfisher. The next portage into Meadows Lake was really a dandy. It was a half mile of hills, trees and rocks. We met with another party, a man and his wife with a Finnish guide. Meadows Lake is quite a nice bass lake both large and small mouth. All the party fished but Stanley Rawn, Dave Cameron, Harold Kinneun and myself. We took a dip as the water was ideal.

After the swim Bing, Al, Rawn, Kinneun, Cameron and myself portaged into Lake Agnes in two canoes and picked up the evenings wood supply at two beaver houses, and paddled on to Leusia Falls. By this time the weather had cleared and we had camp well established for the night. The rest of the party stayed and fished for about an hour and then came on to Leusia Falls. We all took a bath in the bathtub under the falls and then took a swim in Lake Agnes. I was elected to make the pot hook that evening.

6:30 PM Supper --- mulligan stew, chocolate rice and tea.

7:30 PM We all decided to try for the bronze paddle award. So we all

made our personal brands. Mine consisted of a flying duck in a circle.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BRONZE PADDLE:

1. Make one week trip on canoe trails
2. Make pet hook
3. Be able to identify
 - a. trees used for lumber industry
 - b. 2 trees used in building canoes
 - c. 3 trees used in making paddles
 - d. edible fruits
 - e. edible plants
4. Write a story or a diary of your trip or a news paper item of the trip.
5. Draw or take three pictures of some unusual beauty.

Alex Antus, Bob Spenberg, Dick Syversten and Bob Gayer went fishing and each of us caught a nice walleyed pike. Everyone hit the hay at 9:30 PM.

AUGUST 5, 1943
WEATHER CLEAR

6:30 AM Rolled out and helped Al and Bing with breakfast. Ate breakfast at 7:30 Oatmeal, fish and cocoa. During the meal we saw several Canadian Jays more commonly known as the Lumber Jack Bird or the Wiskey Jack. Their confidence in man makes it a popular bird among the lumber jacks and campers of the north woods.

8:45 AM Broke camp and portaged from Lake Agnes over the cliff. Next to Leusia Falls and into Leusia Lake and then three more portages into Lake Panquier. Here we saw a small heronry or reekery of about two dozen nests of the great blue heron. These were located among several high trees. The nests were made of twigs and sticks lined with rushes and swamp grass. The nests are quite large. We made one more portage into Anandis Lake where we pulled ashore and ate our lunch (1:30) peanut butter and cold meat sandwiches and nectar. Here we also met a party of seven from Chicago. Men and women and three scouts. They were having difficulties in making their portages as they had by far too much equipment to make the trip enjoyable. After lunch we portaged into Red Lake and then into Edge Lake and again into Glacier Lake. We had four more portages from one small port hole to another and we made McEwen Lake about 7:45 PM where we made camp for the night.

8:30 PM Ate supper, macaroni and cheese and coffee. Today I saw one more deer, several blue heron and loons and just before dinner tonight a flock of mallards flew into shore about fifty yards from camp.

9:30 PM Hit the hay. We made thirteen portages today and are all dog tired. Several of us made beds of deer moss and slept out in the open.

AUGUST 6, 1943

Weather--Cloudy to Clear

5:30 AM Get up early and made my pack. Then Dick Syversten and I went out for a little casting. We had one strike --a pickerel. While we were out saw a canvas-back duck and her six small ones.

6:30 AM Ate breakfast--cornmeal and coffee.

8:30 AM Pulled out for days travel. Weather looked more like rain. We portaged into Wet Lake and then made the wrong portage and went up toward Saganogon Lake. On this route we were going higher all of the time and had to run up several rapids. Everything was going fine until we came to some rather large rapids and the last canoe (Bob Guyer, Bob Spenberg and Roy Highberg) didn't quite make it and capsized in the middle of the rapids. Bob Spenberg (225 pounds) was sitting up on the gunnels of the stern and when they hit the rough water he was thrown off balance. We all pulled ashore and jumped in the water and rescued the boys, packs, paddles, and canoe. In bringing the packs ashore we threw them into a hive of hornets and in the water we all had to go again. By this time it had started to rain and the wind began to blow and on top of all this we discovered we were lost. We all pulled ashore and attempted to pitch a tent in the wind and build a fire in the rain. This really took some fine scouting. After we had dried out we ate our lunch at 11:30 AM--peanut butter and cold meat sandwiches and tea.

12:30 PM We started to retrace our trip and came to a swamp that we thought would lead us on the right trail but after going some distance and jumping in and out of the canoe several times in mud and rotted swamp grass and trees up to our knees, we decided this was wrong so retraced our way back. We finally found a portage to Lake Ewen into Little Falls Lake. We had to portage four more times and had several rapids to run before we reached Kennebec Falls. We then had about a two hour paddle to Keweenaw Lake where we pulled in for camp for the night.

7:10 PM Made camp and started supper. Several of the boys and myself went fishing. We caught two walleyes about eight pounds each and two nice lake trout about six pounds each. We heard what we thought might be a moose in the swamp running.

8:30 PM Ate supper--hunters stew and raisen pie and tea. It had started to pour down rain and it kept up for about a half hour so we had to eat in our tents.

9:30 PM Hit the hay. Everyone pretty well worn out.

AUGUST 7, 1943

Weather cloudy and strong east wind

5:30 AM Get up and went fishing (Stanley, Dick and I). I caught three nice walleyes. The rest of the boys caught seven more fish--walleyes and northerns. Saw two nice moose--one a bull.

8:30 AM Ate breakfast--fish and pancakes.

10:00 AM Broke camp and paddled out of Keweenaw Lake into Middle Agnes River, west branch, and as we paddled along we saw a cow moose upon the hillside in burned over timber. We had a dandy chance to watch her for quite a spell as she stood out against the skyline so nicely. Made three portages (one long hard one through the swamp and up through three rapids). Arrived at Lake Agnes about 2:30 PM. We pulled into a small island and ate our lunch, peanut butter sandwiches and nectar. We rested here for about an hour and then pulled out and went on to an island off "silent cut-off". Arrived here about five pm. and took a swim then made camp for the night.

8:30 PM Supper--macaroni and cheese, prunes and coffee. After supper the boys did some fishing. Dave Cameron caught two nice lake trout.

10:00 PM Had a camp fire with songs and some good stories and laughs.

11:00 PM Hit the slumber bag.

AUGUST 8, 1943

WEATHER--CLEAR

7:30 AM Up and made my pack.

8:30 AM Breakfast---oatmeal, prunes and tea.

10:30 AM Started our days trip. Arne Erickson and I took the canoe which no one wanted as it had been in the rear all through the trip. We went into East Lake and then portaged into Jeff Lake. On this portage the yoke broke on our canoe and in dropping it we damaged one of the gunnels. We stopped here and made a temporary repair and then portaged into West Lake and from there into a swamp over three beaver dams. Along this part of the trip we saw two beaver working while we were crawling along. We then portaged another swamp and here we saw a nice buck deer. By this time it looked like rain and plenty of it so we portaged into north bay.

12:30 PM Ate lunch on an island and attempted to make a better job of repair on our canoe.

1:30 PM Started out again. It was thundering quite a bit and looked more like rain. We followed the west shore into a river to portage where we went into Bayley Bay on to Prairie Portage. About this time everyone was tired and it had started to rain so we all decided to head for the canoe base. We went down Sucker Lake into Newfound Lake and on to Moose Lake and the base. It had rained for about two and a half hours steady by the time we hit Moose Lake and here it began to clear up and we had a beautiful sunset. We arrived at the canoe base about 9:12 PM. Our canoe was about thirty minutes behind the rest in crippling home/ Arne and I had a general idea of where we were and found our way home by compass. The last hour of the trip was sheer will-power. We were both dog tired and hungry. When we got into the base we dried out in front of the fireplace and the boys had supper ready for us, beans, bacon and coffee which really tasted like T-Bone steaks to this starved gang.

10:30 PM Everything was pretty well soaked from the afternoons down-pour so we layed out our things to dry and made our beds on the cement floor in the main hall of the lodge. Boy^s. oh! Boy! that cement felt like a feather tick that night.

AUGUST 9, 1943

WEATHER--CLEAR

7:30 AM Up and packed for our trip back to Duluth.

8:30 AM Breakfast --- french toast and cocoa

9:30 AM Checked in equipment.

10:30 AM I went out with Al and finished requirements for the bronze paddle

12:00 AM Ate dinner---bread, butter and jam and nectar.

12:30 PM Left for Ely with Had for trip home.

2:00 PM Left Ely on train for Duluth

5:30 PM Arrived at Lakewood and made my last portage of the trip three-quarters of a mile walk with pack and bedroll and paddle to Camp Horace Johnson, my home.

The boys and myself all had a fine trip and a lot of fine experiences which we shall never live ever again. We all voted that if conditions are favorable next year we will organize another trip and attempt to recapture the adventures we had this trip. We also resolved to encourage all senior scouts and scouters to make these trips whenever possible.

THE END

