

REGION TEN WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS RECORD OF PADDLE AWARDS

NAME	Wetzel, Fred J.
ADDRESS	Fairmont, Minnesota.
COUNCIL	Cedar Valley
DATE OF TRIP	1936
GUIDE	Chas. Straghn

PADDLE AWARDS : DATE
BRONZE x
GOLD
SILVER

REQUIREMENT #1 FOR BRONZE PADDLE

TREES

USES

1-White Cedar	Shingles, posts, telegraph poles & boats
2-Weeping Willow	Fuel
3-Diamond Willow	Little value out side of ornametal work
4-Scrub Oak	Not much use commercially
5-White Spruce	Paper pulp & millworking
6-Black Spruce	Paper pulp & millworking Branches-soft bds
7-Balsum	Pulp & Balsum beds
8-Jack Pine	Paper Box lumber
9-Norway Pine	Building, millworks, ladders & furniture
10-White Pine	Millwork, patterns, & building work
11- White Pine Yellow	Woodenware, furniture & cabinet work
12-Silver Poplar	Building, interior work & cross ties
13-White Birch	Fuel, pulp &
14-Yellow Birch	Furniture, veneer, & wooden-ware
15-Alder Brush	Not much use commercially
16-Sugar Plum	Berries to eat
17-Black Ash	Wood working
18-Basewood	Cabinet work, boxes & veneer
19-Pin Cherry	Fruit for birds Wood no economic value
20-Soft Maple	Furniture & pulp
21-Thorn Apple	Edible fruit Wood no economic value
22-Choke Cherry	Edible fruit Wood no economic value
23-Juniper	Not much use commercially
24-Striped Willow	" " " "
25-Aspen) Small toothed(Paper pulp

REQUIREMENT #2 FOR BRONZE PADDLE

PLANTS

VALUE

1-CRUSTOS	None
2-Folios	None
3-Fructos	None
4-Pigeon Wheat Moss	Edible for reindeer deer
5-Reindeer Moss	Edible for reindeer deer
6-White Water Lily	Food for moose & flowers
7-Yellow Water Lily	" " " " "
8-Water Rushes	None
9-Cat Tails	None
10-Strawberries	Edible fruit
11-Raspberries	Edible fruit
12-Gooseberries	Edible fruit
13-Blue Berries	Edible fruit
14-Rose Bushes	Flowers
15-Fire Weed	Grows quickly over burned areas
16-	

REQUIREMENT #3

Cleaning pots & pans with Norway pine needles

REQUIREMENT #6

THE following requirements for the canoeing merit badge were passed & practiced while on our canoe trip with Charles Strachan of Ely as guide.

Requirements #1-2-4-6-10-

DIARY OF MY CANOE TRIP

By FRED J WETZEL
Fairmont, Minn.

July 19, (SUNDAY)

After a ride that would jar your freckles loose we arrived at Hibbard's Lodge, twenty five miles north west of Ely. The lodge has around fifteen cabins with every modern convenience. We will spend tonite here. The fellow who is to be our guide, is from Hibbing. He seems to be a swell fellow. All the others who were to take the trip canceled their agreements for some reason or other, so there will be only the three of us from Fairmont & the Guide. We had the guide join us for supper at the lodge & what a supper it was. I wouldn't mind staying a week at the lodge. Our cabin is a large one with two rooms with two beds in each room. After shaving, Vince & I retired. Both of us agreed not to shave till we got back to Fairmont, not that it will make much difference.

July 20, (MONDAY)

Got up around Eight Bells. We sorted out all the stuff we wasn't going to take & put it in the car, packed our personal packs, which were given to ^{us} the nite before, & then got ready for breakfast. While waiting for breakfast we got a picture of a fawn that Mrs Hibbard had tamed the year before. It comes back every day at dawn for breakfast. At breakfast we learned that a couple of Scout Executives & their wives were leaving the same day & that our guide was to go with them. They got a young fellow from Ely to be our guide. After breakfast we got acquainted & he seems to know his stuff. His name is Charlie Strachn. Mr Chase, the man that puts on these canoe trips, brought out the grub about nine-thirty & we were all set to go at ten. The other party with our former guide left about nine-thirty. We overtook them aways down Moose Lake, the lake the lodge is on, & paddled with them till we

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July 20(MONDAY)

were through Newfound Lake. From there we went into Sucker Lake & they went the Knife Lake Route. At the end of Sucker we had our first portage. The portage was from Sucker Lake into Basswood Lake. Basswood Lake consists of large bays & is forty miles in length. ~~At the~~ The portage is called Prairie Portage. I don't see where it got its name, as it is a long ways from being a Prairie anywhere around there. On the the other side of the portage there is a store that is run by a Indian. Outside of being smelly place, he charges seven prices. In fact he has made ~~af~~ enough off the store to send his daughter to school in New York. Not a bad looking girl for a Indian either. At the portage we had~~d~~ our noon day snack. It turned out to be necter & Corned Beef sandwiches, which wasn't hard to take at all. The necter was made from spring water. The guide says from now on we drink lake water. The lake water has been analized at different places & is claimed to be pure enough to drink. It might be pure but it don't taste so refreshing if you ask me. After ~~leaving~~ leaving the portage we canoed for three hours. During these three hours we saw our first Loons. We camped for the nite on a Island between Merrian & Baliey bay. It is a pretty little Island covered with ~~an~~ Norweigh Pines & White Birch. It also has plenty of Blue Berries & Mosquitioes. While I helped the guide get the supper the others fished. They got a couple of strikes but that was all. For supper we had Canned Ham, my first, boiled spuds, bread & butter & Tea. Before retiring Vince & myself took a dip in the big puddle.

July 21(TUESDAY)

Up at five had our breakfast & were on our way at seven-thirty. For breakfast we had stewed fruit, cream of wheat, with

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July 21, (TUESDAY)

canned milk & coco for beverage. After a three Hr. pull we came up to a Canadian Ranger Station & a Hudson Bay Trading Post. The guide knew the lady that was running the Post, in fact he went to school with her in Ely. The trading post was just built this year & didn't have much in it as yet. They were expecting some indians with a stock of goods, that day. While at the post we got some ice water, quite a treat in these parts. Before leaving we stored up on a paper uper, some Rum & Butter Candy. From the price of the candy one would think that it was all Rum. From the Post we went on up the lake & Boy What A Lake. We docked on U.S. Point for midday lunch. We had Ham & necter for dinner today. Our stop here was brief, as we had a good trip ahead of us yet to get to our days destination. After paddling against the wind till we were so tired we didn't know whether we were coming or going, we came to our first long portage. The portage is ONE MILE & ONE QUARTER, a nice little jaunt when you are tired. Once over the portage wouldn't be so bad but two of had to make ^{two} ~~one~~ trips, making the total two & one half miles. We hit two more not long after this, the smallest being forty rods, which were also made in two trips. We had to portage two canoes, 75LBS a piece, two grub packs & our personal packs. Just as we came in sight of Lower Basswood Falls, our camping place for the nite, it started to rain & continued to drizzle a little all nite. We made camp in the rain. Everybody was so tired to eat ~~xxxxxxx~~ farther's supper. It is no wonder, the guide said we had covered from ~~xxx~~ thirty five to forty miles that day. The guide was sure putting us through our paces, considering that it was only our second day out:..

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July 22, WEDNESDAY

We had the same for breakfast with the exception ~~of~~ of beverage. We had coffee instead of Coco. The falls are a wonderful sight as the sun peers through the heavy white mist that covers them. Eight men have died trying their skill at shooting these falls. The latest victim, a Indian boy, is buried not far from our camp. To day we leave Basswood Lake & go what they call the Snake River Route. The river is filled with water lilies, both white & yellow. It is a beauty hard to describe. River travel is much slower than we expected, as the river ^{is} much lower then it has ever been. We have to get out often & walk along the canoe ~~xxx~~ so we wont tear the bottom of the canoe on the rocks. The rocks are hard to see & often you cannot tell them from large swarms of eggs ~~ss~~ layed in the water. We ate our dinner today in ~~Murphy~~ Horse Lake at a place that had a pure sand beach. Sand beaches are a rare thing around here as most shores are so rocky that you ~~r~~ can hardly walk. By noon we had made four portages. The portages here are not kept up like the Basswood Lake Portages, because this route is traveled very little. One good thing about these portages there are plenty of Raspberries & Blueberries along the side, so when you rest, you also dine. We leave Horse Lake & Portage into Murphy Lake. At Murphy lake we spent three quarters of a Hr. looking for our portage. The farther we get into this country the harder they are to find. We finally found a old Indian Paddles ~~ssss~~ stuck up in the ground with the words (PORT) carved on it. This particular portage was over a old logging track, and came out on the shores of Sand Lake. Here ~~a~~gain we missed our portage. We went around Sand Lake but could not find one so we decided to follow the logging trail further on. Finially the guide & myself decided to climp a peak & see where we was. From there

DIARY OF MY CANOE TRIP

we could see where we wanted to go, but to get there from where our canoes were was our big problem of the evening.. We finally decided to pitch camp on the logging bed. While getting wood for the fire I discovered a porcupine near the top of one of the smaller trees. Knowing that our guide had a reputation for the good way he roasted them, I started to ~~throw~~ throw rocks at him (the porcupine). Soon the other fellows joined in & finally Dad landed one on his head & he landed with a thump. The guide didn't feel much like cooking it that nite, as we had had our hardest day that day. For supper we had rice with raisins & tea. After supper we decided that we would have to cut our trail through the timber to the river. We slept on the logging bed that nite. It was the only place cleared away enough to pitch a tent. I have slept on a lot of different kinds of beds but never on a rail road bed..

JULY 23, THURSDAY

work

We awoke ready for a good days which was a good thing, because if your are tired when you get started what will you be when you stop.. For breakfast we had pancakes (which we slightly heavy in the center, but never the less much liked. We had coffee to drink. After we had everything packed we started back on the logging track. When we got back far enough we started to cut our way to the river. After we had cut five or ten minutes we run on to the portage we were looking for. We followed it & it came out on the logging track at a place where we had passed a half a dozen times the nite before.. We followed the river to Jackfish bay. When we hit the bay the waves were on the loose again & against us besides. For myself I like to paddle on the waves because it breaks the monotony on a long straight stretch, but it also breaks your back. We ate dinner on a island & Vince caught the first fish. The guide didn't think much of it but we thought it was a good one. We finally got the guide to cook it

DIARY OF MY CANOE TRIP

for dinner. He said the reason the fish were not biteing was that the water was to warm. There was still white caps on the lake when we started out after dinner. We made U.S. point after three good pulls. After we made camp Vince & myself tried our luck again at fishing, but I guess it wasn't in the cards for us to catch any. For supper we had fried potatoes & onions with Coco to drink.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

We awoke with the dawn to find the wind went ^{down} much to our pleasure. After breakfast we started out for the trading post & the Rangers Ca bin. We found that the Indians had brought up things to sell, while we were gone. We all bought some things to take home & started off again.. We ate our dinner on a island not far from the island we camped on the first nite. For dinner we had lemon aid, made from powered lemon & cheese ~~sandwiches~~ sandwiches, with pickles if you liked. Our grub pack was is getting low enough to notice now. After a dip we started for Skull Point our destination for the nite. We took our time all after noon & made the point about five o'clock. We all took a good bath, taking turns scrubing each other so we would ^{look} somewhat civilized when we got to the lodge the next day. After supper Vince & ~~xx~~ I got together to do some brushing up on the trees & plants we were to know for the paddlw award. Before retiring we lunched on dried fruit.

SATURDAY, JULY 25

Last nite sure was a good nite for mosquitoes, but we had the front of our tent covered with netting & the guide had a mosquito tent up. FOR BREAKFAST WE had toast & jell with coffee. We cleaned up on most of our grub as this was to be our last meal out. After packing we took some more pictures and started for the lodge. We sang songs all the way. We arrived at the lodge about nine thirty A.M. the finish of a perfect canoe trip with a swell guide.



FRED J. WETZEL