



REFLECTIONS



NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

1995 Reunion Draws Enthusiastic Crowd

Annual Meeting Highlights

Fifty-one members attended the 1995 annual membership meeting of the Sommers Alumni Association. The annual meeting was held on Sunday, September 3, 1995 in conjunction with the staff reunion at Sommers canoe base. This annual meeting is required by law because the association is a non-profit corporation.

Association president **Dave Hyink** opened the meeting by reading the *Up North!* passage from the book by the same name, written by **Sam Cook**. Dave dedicated the thoughts expressed in the reading to the memory of honorary association member **Bill Stigler**. One of Bill's goals was the formation of the association.

Association secretary **Blaine "Butch" Diesslin** highlighted the minutes of the 1994 annual meeting.

Association treasurer **Nigel Cooper** presented the association's treasurer's report. The report showed that our income has exceeded expenses, however our dues income has not kept pace with operating expenses. The association has donated in excess of \$55,000 to support the Northern Tier programs, for the Lodge renovation and the first night cabin construction.

Membership co-chairmen **Barry Bain** and **Zane Beaton**

reported that our membership prior to the reunion was 295, of which 32 are honorary members and 153 are life members. Approximately 10 new memberships were received from reunion attendee's.

Publications chairman **Roy Conradi** reported that the association will continue to print three editions of the *Reflections* newsletter annually, scheduled to be mailed in October, February and July. Due to rising publications costs, the Fall, 1995 issue will be the last newsletter mailed to non-members. Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures, etc for the newsletter.

Association directors **Roy D. Conradi**, **Blaine R. Diesslin** and **David M. Hyink** were re-elected by popular acclamation to three year terms.

Butch Diesslin reported that the Lodge renovation is getting closer to completion.

The success of association's First Night Cabin building project was reported by **Ray "Red" Mattson**. Ray recognized and thanked the other members of the alumni work crew, and other alumni members who made the project a success.

Association director and

coordinator of special giving, **Jay Walne**, reported that "Crossing Portages" pledges are now at \$81,000. The association's greeting card sales will be handled by **Dan Wangerin** this year. Dan will be sending out ordering information.

The association is sponsoring a Triple Crown Award for scouts who have attended all three national high adventure bases. **Dave Hyink** is in charge of these certificates.

Ray Mattson reported on the success of the 1995 staff reunion.

The membership, at the recommendation of the directors, have set the next reunion to be the Labor Day Weekend of 1998. This will coincide with the 75th anniversary of the first scout canoe trip led by **Carlos Chase**, which was the beginning of what is now Northern Tier National High Adventure programs.

The membership voted to establish a annual Alumni Association Work Week, to begin Memorial Day weekend and run until the first day of staff training week.

Ruth Sheagren has volunteered to be the collector and compiler of memorable incidents from our days of working at the base. Any memo-

orable anecdotes - humorous or otherwise — should be sent to Ruth.

The annual meeting adjourned with a rousing chorus of "The Far Northland."

Association members present at the annual meeting were: **Barry Blain**, **Tom Beaton**, **Zane Grey Beaton**, **Kimberly Bielawski**

Sandy Bridges, **Phil Cady**, **Joel Cafferata**, **Charles Carter**, **John Christiansen**, **Paul Coler**, **Roy Conradi**, **Nigel Cooper**, **Roger Dellinger**, **Blaine Diesslin**, **Larry Gaalaas**, **Jeremiah Gardner**, **Dave Greenlee**, **K.C. "Maynard" Guitierrez**, **Charley Hann**, **Mike Holdgrafer**, **Dave Hyink**, **Ed Janzen**, **Lou Kleager**, **Fred M. King**, **Cory Kolodji**, **Joe Mattson**, **Ray Mattson**, **Mark Norstrom**, **Bob Oliva**, **Dick Olson**, **Lee Olson**, **John Oosterhuis**, **Craig Pendergraft**, **Lynn Reeve**, **Don Richard**, **Mark Rolandt**, **Michael Sawinski**, **Paul Schlieve**, **Joel Sheagren**, **Norm Sjoblom**, **Dave Sitzer**, **David Starks**, **Dan Stoops**, **Bob Renner**, **Linnea Renner**, **Chuck Rose**, **Laurel M. (Rosene) Theis**, **Jim Thomas**, **Jay Walne**, **Dan Wangerin**, **Robert L. Welsh**, **Larry Whitmore**, **Bob Winchell**.



Tidbits on the Summers Clan

Many time Advisor **Fred Beck** ('63,65,67,68) is retired. Fred attended the 1995 Reunion to visit with his former guides and one of his former scouts **Gil Knight**.

Many thanks to Northern Tier Committee Member, and long-time supporter of the Base, **Bob Cary** ('84-) for his willingness to provide artwork to the alumni association.

Nigel Cooper ('77,'79,'80) is now Controller for Riverplace, Inc., in Minneapolis, MN.

J. Ross Hostetter ('75) is a Attorney/Mediator, living in Telephone, TX., with his wife Mary, son Dexter (6) and daughter Melissa (4). Visitors are more than welcome.

Fred M. King ('60-63) is a Mortgage Banker in the Minneapolis area. He wasn't lost! He lives less than a mile from **Barry Bain** ('57-62). Fred has maintained contact with **Ron Miles** ('61-66). Ron is the Regional Naturalist of the Minnesota State Parks, and lives in the Brainerd, MN area.

Many thanks to **Bob "Red" Renner** ('51, 56-58,85-) for the framing of the "Crossing Portages" original drawing by **Bob Cary**.

Joel Sheagren ('74-77) Purchased the "Crossing Portages" original drawing, by Bob Cary, for \$500. The proceeds go into the Crossing Portages fund. Thank You Joel!

Ruth Sheagren, Joel's ('74-77) wife, has volunteered to be

the collector and compiler of our fond memories of working at the Base. Please write down your memories and anecdotes, and send them to her at 529 S. 7th St. #415, Minneapolis, MN 55415.

Jack Strickland ('62-64) is now owner of Las Vegas Golf & Tennis in Englewood, CO. About a year ago Jack renewed acquaintances with Flossie Tomsich Kalan (former Kirk's Lodge employee). They are now engaged with no date set. If you're going to the Denver area, give Jack a call — for coffee, skiing, golf, etc.

Laurel (Rosene) Theis ('80-81) is a Occupational Therapist/Activity Director, specializing in horseback riding for the handicapped. Laurel, husband John and daughter Tressa (2) love living in the country.

Many time advisor and alumni association member **Terry Wall** ('81) has helped Troop 381 produce a rock climbing instruction video "Rock Climbing The Scouting Way." The 67-minute video is available for \$25, through Terry (5011 Neosho, Shawnee Mission, KS 66205). The proceeds will be used to fund a trip to climb and clean Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania in December, 1995.

C. Ray White ('56) and his wife Marge welcomed Butch Diesslin ('61-80) and his wife Lucy to the Spokane, WA area with a wonderful visit. The White's extend an invitation to all who are going that way.

Membership Status Identification Codes

The line above your name on your mailing label gives information on your association membership/ mailing status, the date you joined the association, and the date of last dues payment for annual and sustaining members. If there is no line printed above your name you are not listed as a member of the alumni association in our data base. Please let us know if the status line on your label is in error.

The membership status codes are as follows:

AA - Annual Affiliate
 AR - Annual Active
 CAA - Charter Annual Affiliate
 CAR - Charter Annual Active
 CLA - Charter Life Affiliate
 CLR - Charter Life Active
 CSUA - Charter Sustaining Affiliate
 CSUR - Charter Sustaining Active
 CST - Charter Staff
 HC - Honorary Charter
 LA - Life Affiliate
 LR - Life Active
 ST - Staff
 SUA - Sustaining Affiliate
 SUR - Sustaining Active

Alumni Association Directors and Officers

Director/President (3)*	Dave Hyink	(206) 863-6406
Director/Secretary (3)	Butch Diesslin	(218) 365-6904
Director (3)	Roy Conradi	(404) 496-0920
Director (2)	Zane Beaton	(612) 861-4930
Director (2)	John Christiansen	(417) 646-8526
Director/Vice President (2)	Barry Bain	(612) 944-5178
Director (1)	Lorri Hanson	(503) 744-2814
Director (1)	Jay Walne	(901) 278-2633
Director (1)	Dave Greenlee	(605) 371-2209
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 Ranch, BSA Cimarron, NM 88714 (505) 376-2281
Mr. Sandy Bridges	Director, Northern Tier National High Adventure Program P.O. Box 509 Ely, MN 55731 (218) 365-4811
Mr. Robert LaFortune	Chairman, National High Adventure Committee 427 S. Boston #2104 Tulsa, OK 74103-4132
Mr. Steve Fossett	Chairman, Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee Marathon Securities 401 So. LaSalle Street, Suite 200 Chicago, IL 60605

In Memory Of
J. Austin Walne, Sr. by Jay Walne
Stanley M. Osri by Jack Osborne
In Honor Of
Clyde S. (Sandy) Bridges by Jay Walne

Volume 5, Number 3. Reflections is the official publication of the Charles L. Sommes Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 428, 5891 Moose Lake Road, Ely, Minnesota 55731-0428. *Reflections* is published three times a year (Oct., Feb., and July). The Charles L. Sommes Alumni Association, Inc. is a non-profit Minnesota corporation. The IRS has determined that the alumni association is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to the alumni association are tax deductible. Membership to the Sommes Alumni Association is open to all persons 18 years and older. Association dues are \$10 for Annual membership, \$25 or more annually for Sustaining membership, or \$150 (one time) for Life Membership. The association's dues year begins January 1. **MOVING** . . . please notify the the alumni association of your new address, phone number, etc. We will include your E-Mail addresses in the member directory. Send your address changes or additions to P.O. Box 428, Ely, MN 55731-0428 or to Butch Diesslin via e-mail at: b.diesslin@vr.cc.mn.us.

Association Directors Report on Sept. 3 Board Meeting

The directors and officers of the association met at 7:00 A.M. on Sunday, September 3, 1995 in the staff dining room at the base. All of the officers and directors, except **Lorri Hanson**, were present.

The directors agreed to continue printing three editions of the *Reflections* newsletter annually. The directors also decided that after the next issue, the newsletter will only be sent to association members in good standing, to the Northern Tier committee members, and to the next-of-kin of Honorary members.

The directors supported Dave Hyink's request for the association to sponsor a **TRIPLE CROWN AWARD** certificate, for scouts and scouters who

have been participants at all three national high adventure programs. Interested and qualified individuals will make application by mail.

The directors will recommend to the membership that the next reunion be held in 1998 at the Charles L. Sommers National High Adventure Base. This will coincide with the 75th anniversary of the scout sponsored canoe trip programs from the Ely area. The directors agreed to support members who wish to organize regional reunions of former canoe base staff.

Jay Walne reported that pledges to the "**CROSSING PORTAGES**" annual giving campaign have reached \$81,000. The directors dis-

cussed the need to develop guidelines for, and the approval of, special projects to be funded by the association.

Dan Wangerin has agreed to be in charge of the association's greeting card sales. Dan outlined his plans for this year's program, which the directors approved.

The directors will recommend to the membership that a

annual alumni work week be designated. The work week to start with Memorial Day weekend and run until the beginning of staff training.

The directors agreed to request that association members volunteer to assist with the Northern Tier staff training.

The directors gave **Butch Diesslin** approval to produce a HOL-RY bumper sticker.

Volunteer Award Named for George Hedrick

To permanently honor his life-long support of the Charles L. Sommers National High Adventure Base and its programs, the Association Directors and Officers created **The George D. Hedrick Volunteer Service Award**, to recognize significant long-term contributions — particularly in the form of "hands-on participation" — to the Canoe Base. The

award will be conferred by the Directors and Officers on a periodic basis to deserving individuals. Recipients will be presented with a plaque, as well as having their names inscribed on a permanent plaque, which will hang in the Charles L. Sommers Lodge. Nominations may be made at any time to the SAA Directors and Officers.

Lodge Renovation Closer to Completion

The renovation of The Lodge is getting closer to completion, thanks to the generosity of the alumni association members. To date the association has contributed about \$49,000 to the renovation.

The renovations made to date include: removal of all non-log partition walls, a new floor in all but the main room, hot water heating coils in the new floor, a new staircase to the upper level, the enclosure of the upper level to become the **Hedrick Memorial Library**, new insulated roof on the entire building, new lighting in the entire building.

Yet to be completed are: the installation of a heating system, adding outlets in the main room, purchasing furniture and furnishings, the remaining finishing of the Hedrick Memorial Library and the winterization of the windows.

Work continues on the finishing of the Hedrick Memorial Library with alumni member **Bob Olivia** doing most of the carpentry. The Library is now

paneled and has a door with a lock.

A heating system will be installed this fall. A propane boiler will be purchased and connected to the heating coils in the floor and the refurbished radiators will be installed in the main room. The plumbing for the radiators and electrical outlets will be installed behind the wainscoting.

The goal is to use the main room of the Lodge as a conference room and classroom. Options for furniture and other furnishings toward that goal are being explored. Additional furniture for the remainder of the Lodge and the Hedrick Library will also be acquired.

The plan for weatherizing the windows is to have storm windows made, using the same "barn sash" type window as are currently in the Lodge.

The alumni association will be using money from the **CROSSING PORTAGES** annual giving campaign to assist Northern Tier with completing the renovation of the Lodge.



L-R: Dave Hyink, Mick Hedrick, Red Renner

Renner Honored

The first recipient of the George D. Hedrick Volunteer Service Award, **Robert "Red" Renner**, was honored at the recent '95 Rendezvous Up North. Red has a long association with the Base — having guided in the 50's and serving on the Base Committee since 1985. He and his wife, **Winnie**, are also parents of two "second generation" Sommers Alumni;

daughters **Kimberly Renner Bielawski** (1978-81) and **Linnea Renner** (1980-82). Over the years, Red and Winnie have used their superlative wood-working skills to make many beautiful things for the Base. Readers might also recall Red's picture in the last issues of *Reflections*, as he was very instrumental in the construction of the First Night Cabins.

Congratulations Red.

President's Message

Too often, the simple (but significant) things often slip by unnoticed. That was almost the case on Labor Day of 1994 when **Butch Diesslin, Barry Bain, Zane Beaton** and I were busily signing and sending the blue and white plastic membership cards to the Charter Life and Honorary Charter members of our Association. As I automatically signed my name on the back of each card, for some reason I stopped and read the inscription. For those of you who (like me), immediately upon receipt, put it in a safe (but now unknown) place, I'll reproduce it here:

The Alumni Association was organized to:

Preserve and protect wilderness camping, high adventure, and training opportunities for the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program.

Offer time, talents, and assets of the corporation's membership to the program and to local councils of the Boy Scouts of America.

Spread the spirit of the Far Northland and preserve its memories, its traditions, and the folklore of the people and places that played such an important part in each of our lives.

I then turned it over to reveal whose card I was signing. The name emblazoned on the front was none other than **Charles L. Sommers!** It was a special moment.

For many, I suppose, this would have been "no big deal." After all, we work hard to communicate the successes of the program and the business of the

Association to the heirs of our past visionaries and leaders. But for me, it was a special "ah-ha" experience — as my mind shot back three decades to August 2, 1965, when as a wide-eyed member of Crew 802A, I got my first introduction to the *spirit of the Far Northland*, and was the beneficiary of the vision and dedication of Mr. Sommers and his associates in the form of my own wilderness canoe trip. Looking ahead, I could never have imagined that special moment in 1994. Looking back, it's been a most pleasant and eventful journey — one in which I am proud to be associated with each and every one of you as we seek to . . . *preserve and protect . . . offer time, talents, and assets . . . spread the spirit, and . . . preserve the memories . . .*

As we move forward together — Crossing the Portages, Sharing the Loads, and spreading the spirit of the Far Northland — we'll not only continue the important work of our predecessors; but we'll also continue to build the memories, perpetuate the traditions, and contribute to the rich folklore that will be such an important part in the lives of those we serve today!

By the way, the crew number of the group from my local Boy Scout Troop that attended Sommers this past summer was 802A!

To you and yours, I extend my best wishes for a happy and healthy Holiday Season, and a most prosperous and joyous New Year.



Message from Sandy

1995 What a great year for High Adventure Programs! Hottest year on record for much of the canoe country. Wild fires caused some interesting opportunities and even closed the Bissett Base for the first month. Several of the Ely crews had to be rerouted and we even had to fly a crew out at the end of the season.

The new outfitting building is tremendous. Finally a place designed to do the food outfitting for the trail and a place to air and dry packs and tents as well.

Please, when you have the opportunity, thank your local Order of the Arrow Lodge for the new Base Gateway at Ely. This was a National Order of the Arrow project. It should make us all proud and supportive of our lodges. The "Gateway" is just fantastic and will help "portage" our crews into the finest High Adventure trips available anywhere. The gateway complements the new emphasis on our history program "Portages Through Time." Setting the stage for a look both back to the North West Company of 1816 and a jump forward to camping with a conscience for the 21st century.

Atikokan had one of the finest seasons in its history. We are really looking forward to the future expansion at Atikokan. This is possible because of the fine staff and participants that have helped through the years, believe it or not it has been

almost 25. Building on the experience of others Atikokan is coming of age. Staff from Scouts Canada added a special flavor this year.

The Alumni can't be thanked enough, two new first night cabins, staff training, special help all summer from several, "Crossing Portages — Sharing the Load," etc. etc. Seemed like each time I looked up Al Batterman was there along with many others. The Rendezvous was well attended and certainly a lot of fun for our family. The dedication of the new gateway as a special event as well — and I have to say for me one of the biggest surprises of my life. As the dedication was under way I looked out of the corner of my eye to see a canoe being portaged through the gates of the new gatehouse. It wasn't just a canoe but a brand new "Seliga," being portaged by Joe. I still can't believe it — it was presented to me. No amount of thanks can express my feelings. Cherie and I took it out at Crane Lake a week or so ago during the Invitational Fishing Trip, just like a feather — the memories flood back.

The future is really bright! The opportunities are limitless! Grab on and help pull, you are needed and it does work — You can really be proud of your Canoe Base. Scouts and leaders still enjoy your program and your canoe and snowshoe country.

Happy holidays to everyone!

Hol-Ry! SHOUT IT OUT!

The alumni association has a new sticker to let one another know who we are. It has a very simply and direct message: **Hol-Ry!**

One of these new stickers will be sent to all life members and will be sent to annual members with their 1996 member-

ship card, upon receipt of their 1996 dues.

An additional Hol-Ry! sticker is available to members by sending an addressed business size (#10) envelope with a 32 cent stamp affixed, to the Alumni Association, Box 428, Ely, MN 55731-0428.

Hol-Ry!®

Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 428, Ely, MN 55731-0428

New Base Gateway Dedicated During Reunion

by Allan R. Batterman

A new gateway to the Charles L. Sommers National High Adventure Base, BSA, was dedicated September 2, 1995 (during the Alumni Reunion), thanks to the generosity of the National Order of the Arrow Program, the staff of the Northern Tier High Adventure Programs, and a host of volunteers including the new Brother Wolf Lodge 196 of the new Voyageur Council.

The Gateway is a replica of the entrance at Old Fort William, a Northwest Company Post near Thunder Bay, Ontario, which was first drawn in 1812. The Gateway is the first step in the base's "Portages Through Time," inviting Scouts to enter the historical era of the fur trade

as they experience the finest contemporary wilderness camping in North America.

The National Order of the Arrow (OA), through their sup-



port of the National High Adventure Bases, donated \$10,000 to the Northern Tier Program for defraying the costs of the Voyageurs Stockade Gateway.

Erling Hegg and **Don Melander**, with the guidance of **Sandy Bridges**, designed the Gateway. Through the guidance and abilities of Erling Hegg construction was begun in the fall of 1994 and continues through 1995. The local Order of the Arrow Lodge, Kan'iss Ma'ingan (Brother Wolf) #196 and the OA Section C-1, comprised of 11 lodges over the upper Midwest, assisted in the Gateway construction.

Building methods are traditional, using tamarack posts,

cedar poles and hardwood pegs. In the spring of 1996, the parking lot will be enlarged and the entrance road modified to eliminate that portion that goes directly past the greeting cabin. The area between the greeting cabin and the Gateway becomes a meeting ground and the greeting cabin serves as a Great Hall.

The next time you visit the base, chances are good that you will walk through time to that period between 1760 and 1820. In our desire to continue the traditions of Charlie's Boat Base, we are finding it necessary to deal with our clients by different methods. This is a part of one of those changes.

Another Fun Fishing Invitational

Cool and sometimes cloudy weather, did cloud the great time — had by all — at the 1995 Northern Tier Fishing Invitational. As with last year, the event was held at Nelson's Resort on Crane Lake — famous for their gracious hospitality and their wonderful "shore lunches." Participants enjoyed two days of guided fishing (headed-up by Sommers

Alumnus **Butch Eggen**) and great scouting fellowship. Fishing awards went to: **Downing Jenks** (First Fish), **Margarette Hann** (Largest Walleye), and **Mike Holdgrafer** (Best Stringer). Proceeds from the event are slated to benefit seasonal staff scholarships at the Northern Tier. Mark your calendars for September 20-23, 1996, and plan to join us!

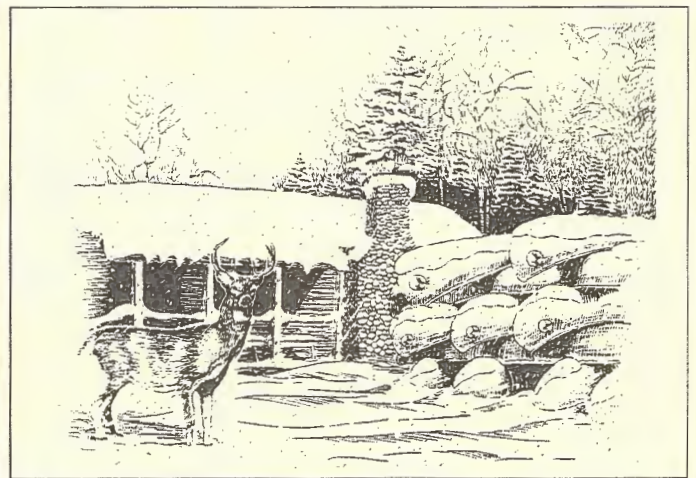
3rd Annual Greeting Card Features Canoe Yard

The third in a series of the Association's popular annual Greeting Card is now available. The 1995 card features a winter scene in pen and ink of the "Canoe Yard" by artist **Bob Cary**. As in the previous cards, there is a message on the back about SAA. The cards, in high quality thermography, are suitable for mailing to business associates, friends and fellow scouters. By using SAA Holiday Greeting Cards the sender is relaying a message

about his commitment to scouting and Northern Tier Programs.

The price is \$25.00 for 25 cards and envelopes, including shipping. A small quantity of the 1993 (The Lodge) and 1994 (Hanson House) cards are available for \$20.00 per package of 25.

Send orders and check (to SAA) to **Dan Wangerin**, 715 Barberry Place, West Bend, WI 50395.



1995 Reunion Attendees Pose For Camera

Photos by Roy Conradi



New Canoe Base Committee Chairman Named

At the fall meeting of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee, held in conjunction with the '95 Rendezvous Up North, outgoing Chairman **Charley Hann**, announced the appointment of his successor, **Steve Fossett** of Chicago. Steve is Chairman of Lakota Trading, Inc., and President of Marathon Securities, Inc. He is a member of the National BSA Advisory Board, the National High Adventure Committee, is an immediate-past member of the Philmont Ranch Committee. An Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow; in his youth, Steve served as a National Junior

Leadership Training Instructor and as a Philmont Ranger.

Steve is the epitome of a "high adventurer" — having recently recorded the first solo balloon flight across the Pacific in February of this year (a world record flight of 5438 miles). He holds several official world records in sailing — the most recent coming in late August as he and his crew shaved five days from a 115-year-old record for a sail-powered Trans-Pacific crossing from Japan to San Francisco. He has "run the Iditarod" (47th place in 1992), swum the English Channel, and climbed the tallest peak on 6 of 7 continents. His next goal is to complete a non-stop global cir-

cumnavigation by balloon.

Steve is a member of the Board of Trustees at Washington University, the Board of Directors of the Jimmie Henga Center, and the Board of Governors of Opportunity International. In addition to the

Boy Scouts of America, his memberships include: the Explorers Club, the Royal Geographical Society, and the American Alpine Club.

We look forward to working with Steve in the years to come!

Northern Tier Staff Training Volunteers Sought for 1996

A post-training evaluation in 1995 of the readiness of the new staff at Northern Tier indicated an increased need for hands-on training in canoeing, camping, cooking — the basic skills necessary to be a successful Interpreter. To address this need, the hope is to do more small group active learning activities during the 1995 staff training week and utilize the expertise of the alumni members. Mike Holdgrafer - coordinator of staff training, Northern Tier committee member and alumni association member — is requesting assistance from interested alumni to serve as a resource person for the small group hands-on sessions. The hope is to make these sessions as close to trail activity simulations as possible.

If you are interested in helping maintain the high quality of the Northern Tier program by sharing your expertise, plan on spending the second week in June, 1996 at the base as a small group mentor. There will be additional information in the next newsletter.

Crossing Portages Update

Pledge to Crossing Portages continue to roll in! At last count the total pledges were over \$90,000.00! However, we are still slightly short of our goal of \$100,000.00 by December 31. Anyone considering making a pledge please do so as quickly as possible. My feeling is sort of like the one toward the end of along portage trail. We have been on the trail a long time; wondering if I can make it to the

end without setting my canoe down, I look ahead and through the trees I catch a glimpse of that shimmering lake that marks the end . . . almost there. This has truly been a major undertaking for SAA, and an important one, as Crossing Portages will provide funding for many of the projects we undertake over the next five years. Many thanks to everyone who has participated!

Payment Schedule (5 yrs.)

Portage Crossed	Gift	Yearly	Quarterly
Grand Portage	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	\$125.00
Horse Portage	1,500.00	200.00	50.00
Meadows Portage	500.00	100.00	25.00
Prairie Portage	200.00	40.00	10.00

75th Anniversary Planning Begins

Based on a member vote at the 1995 Annual Association meeting, the next Alumni Reunion (originally scheduled for the fall of 1997) will be delayed one year to coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the wilderness canoeing program. The planning committee includes: **Dave Greenlee, Joel Sheagren, Ray Mattson, Mark Rolandt, Chuck Rose, Craig**

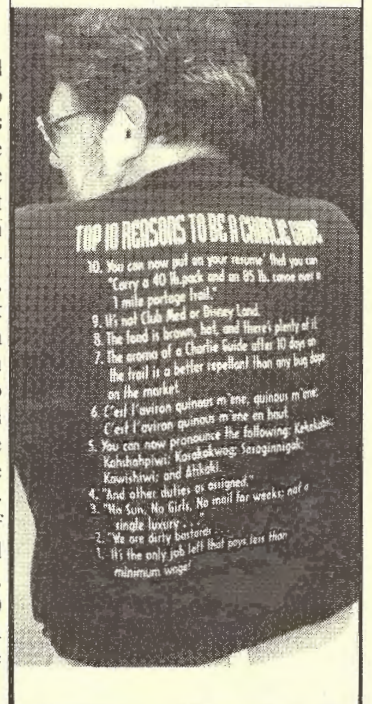
Pendergraft, Don Richard, and Dan Stoops. Planned also is the product of a "coffee table" book — commemorating the 75-year relationship between the Canoe Base, its alumni, and the canoe country. If you have thoughts or ideas about either the celebration or the book, and/or you would like to play a direct role, please let us know.

Triple Crown of High Adventure

The Association's Directors and Officers created a special award to recognize both scouts and adults that have participated in all three National BSA High Adventure Programs: Northern Tier, Philmont and the Florida Sea Base. Upon submission of a completed application, indicating dates of attendance, crew numbers, and other pertinent information, the SAA will issue a special Triple Crown of High Adventure certificate. In addition to recognizing those scouts and scouters who seriously participate in National High Adventure, the application process serves to identify a potential source of future staff members. Triple Crown Award recipients, Vincent Smith, Joe Page, Al Easley and Judge John S. (Jack) Langford, Troop 42, Atlanta, GA were recently featured in an article in *Scouting* magazine.

Charlie Tee Shirt Debuts At Reunion

A tee shirt listing the "Top 10 Reasons to be a Charlie Guide" made its debut at the 1995 reunion. The black shirt with white lettering was created by David Starks. David said he has eight XL shirts left and you can get one by sending \$15.00 to David Starks, 111 S. Oakwood, #1616, Enid, OK 73703.



Sandy Celebrates 30 Years with BSA

Among the names of such visionary scouters as **Charles L. Sommers, Frank A. Bean, Carlos S. Chase, Horace "Hod" Ludlow, Oren Felton, Henry Bradlich, Henry W. Schreiber, Clifford J. Hanson,** and **George D. Hedrick**, one will surely include **Clyde S.**

(Sandy) Bridges. While September 1, 1995 marked **Sandy's** 30th year as a permanent employee with the Boy Scouts of America, the "Bridges Era" spans nearly 40 years of association with the Base. In recognition of his vision, leadership and determination in mold-

ing the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program into the great institution that it is today, an *ad hoc* group of his friends — calling themselves "The Bridges Brigade" — presented (a very surprised) **Sandy** with a new **Seliga**; carried in by **Joe** himself!



Mini Reunion Planned

Sommers alumni in the Minneapolis area are planning a regional alumni reunion February 17-18, 1996, in the Twin Cities area. The Alumni Board will also be meeting in Minneapolis February 18. If you are interested in attending the reunion gathering, call **Barry Bain** at (612) 220-3201 or **Zane Beaton** at (612) 223-0860.



SOMMERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
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