



# REFLECTIONS



NORTHERNTIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

## A call to work week

by Allen Rench

It's that time of year in the North, when the snow is just about gone and we wait for the bugs to come out. It's that time to break out of the cabin, stretch those muscles and greet summer head on. One way to start the summer is to be part of what has been called "Alumni Work Week." If you are like me work and week do not sound like fun or how I want to spend my long-awaited vacation. But this is your chance to expend some of your creative energies.

Almost two years ago I called upon you to help rescue the base from its worst disaster. I was overwhelmed by your support. At that time I had a desire to give something back to the base that would last a lifetime. Now we have been given the opportunity to complete the job we started, which is to make use of the trees that were blown down by the storm of '99 and to help reforest the property.

Doug Hirdler has offered the alumni association the project of building four log, period buildings in the palisade area of the base. They are a blacksmith shop, wood-working shop, canoe shop, and a Sommers Canoe Base history museum. The construction of the buildings is a mixture of timber framing and piece en piece construction. The first phase is to prepare the logs for a sawyer to cut them to shape for in-fill. The next will be to construct the building framework and roof trusses, then the flooring. Obviously there is more than a week's worth of fun. This is your chance to see what it was like to be a timber framer at Grand Portage and share some old and new friendships. Our goal is to have the timber cut and in place to start framing this fall some time around Labor Day. We will be working on this project all summer and everyone is encouraged to take part.

The first building to be erected is the blacksmith shop and I would like to be able to dedicate our efforts at Rendezvous 2002.

This year's activities are scheduled to commence Memorial Day weekend and end June 2. If you would like to extend your presence

through the weekend of June 8, Mike Holdgraffer, who is in charge of Training week, would greatly appreciate it. He is inviting alumni with special interests in photography, Indian lore, and fur trade history to present a class during that concluding weekend. I am encour-

aging you to participate. So if you are not available for Memorial Day weekend, but would still like to help in our building, reforesting and/or training projects here is your chance.

So I am giving another HOLRY. We need your help.

## Henry Bradlich: broken paddle

by Roger Clapp, Pat Cox, Butch Diesslin, Ted Hingst, Mike McMahon, John Oosterhuis, Chuck Rose, Cherie Sawinski, John Thurston, Larry Whitmore

Henry Bradlich died in an auto accident March 3 near Cotton, MN. He was 86. Many who knew him felt that making it to three days short of 87 might be considered very good, but knowing him also meant knowing his youthful appearance and the slight mischievousness that gave the impression that he enjoyed his youth and expected to remain in that state forever. Knowing him meant expecting another 15 or 20 years of his company. So it was a shock to lose him in a car crash.

Henry Bradlich had a strong influence on the canoe base for a long time. He was a 14-year-old crew member of a 1928 crew led by Carl Chase. He introduced Sandy Bridges to the wonders of winter and Sandy credits Henry and George Hedrick for the birth of the Okpik program. Staff through the years to the 80s saw him as a father figure, then a grandfather figure. Henry was on the staff from 1950-67, then from 1976-87 as year-round ranger after he retired from teaching.

He kept everyone busy, working on base projects from raking the roads to cleaning the pond to chipping Ely Greenstone under the dining hall in "Charlie's Mine."

He had a gift for making scouts feel that they had no higher calling on earth than to perform any of those tasks.

He walked miles around the base each day, keeping everyone on task. Today's promoters of "management by walking around" could have used him as a model. In spite of the close tabs he kept on everyone, there was one thing he never knew (and only two people

knew until now); that a fellow named Joel Pickens ('66) was the one who used a large piece of Ely Greenstone to permanently silence Henry's wood chipper one night.

Now a piece of Ely Greenstone serves as a rune, in the sense that Sig Olson wrote about. It reminds those who knew him of what he meant to them, brings back the sounds, smells and sights of talking and working with him.

Henry's death brings another Sig Olson image to mind. When he wrote in *Listening Point* about

receiving a notice of a friend's death, and found that the card included a picture of a broken paddle

and the friend's name. "I know now, thinking of the broken paddle and what it really meant, that if a man in the course of time can so identify himself with a way of life that when he goes it is not just another passing, then he has achieved a lasting place in the

memories of his fellows, a bond they will cherish forever. The broken paddle was an insignia forged in the wilds of loyalty not only of men to each other, but devotion to lasting and eternal things."

There was no memorial service, according to Henry's wishes. A service may be held at the base this summer. A memorial for him is also being established. Henry's son, Bill, commented that Henry would have been surprised at that.

*continued on page 5*



## President's Message

by Allen Rench

On several occasions I have received e-mail from friends regarding the most influential people in our lives. There were suggestions: presidents, athletes, movie stars, or popular business executives. In the end none of them ranked high on the list. The highest influences were our parents and our teachers. The teachers I remember the most are those with the high expectations, who were willing to go the extra mile in their efforts to pass along their knowledge and were willing to be a friend. This year we lost two such teachers, more importantly, friends: Red Renner and Henry Bradlich. Each was a teacher both in and out of the classroom. Each touched many of our lives in ways that could not be put into words. Their passion for living and for giving of themselves was immeasurable. I will remember Henry with his red bandanna, chipper in tow on a daily trek to make mulch for his trails. For Red, I see him chauffeuring his wife,

Winnie, around the base high above the ground in the bucket of the front loader as she was taking pictures of the blowdown damage.

I was lucky to have visited them both recently. I had just met Red to prepare for construction of four log period buildings inside the palisades at the Base. One is to be a working blacksmith shop. I had met with Henry to let him know about the blacksmith shop and that we were going to furnish the shop with the equipment that he had acquired some years prior. Henry was quite delighted to hear of the projects and to still be able to contribute to the canoe base. Red was passionate about building with the logs from the blowdown and to have the opportunity to work with the Base staff and with the alumni. In their passing we need to remember the lessons that they taught not so much by their words but by how they lived. Be passionate about whatever you do and pass something of yourself on to others.

## Words from the general manager

by Doug Hirdler

At the National Executive Board Meeting on February 7 the National Council executive board voted to spend \$262,000 on the following capital expenditures: \$27,000 to purchase a new 4-wheel drive Chevrolet Tahoe for Northern Tier use; \$30,000 to remodel two crew cabins and build two crew cabins at the Donald Rogert Base near Atikokan; \$30,000 to build an addition onto the tent drying facility so it can be used for tent drying and outfitting plus build one crew cabin at Northern Expeditions in Bissett; at the Charles L. Sommers Base in Ely – an additional \$175,000 (added to the original 1999 appropriation of \$325,000) to construct a new Baypost/Tent Drying facility. When completed, the National Office will have spent \$1,255,000 during 2001 to make the Northern Tier facilities and programs even greater for our youth.

Our blessing stems from the growth that we have seen for this year compared to previous National Jamboree years and that which we project will continue into next year and beyond. The total long-term participation for our last National Jamboree year of 1997 was 2,583 involved in 340 crews

(that topped the previous high jamboree year by 52 participants). This compares to 3,991 involved in 492 crews signed up (as of February 20) for this year. This figure does not include the Order of the Arrow Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage participants which should total about 100.

As of February 20 we have sent out 101 staff contracts for this year. We anticipate hiring 135.

I wish to thank each and every one of the Alumni Association members for your recent help in recruiting quality staff members for this year. Your hard work will also be needed at this year's work-week and in training and orienting the new Northern Tier High Adventure Staff for 2001. No doubt without your involvement this record setting National Jamboree year would not be possible. I am sure that you can and will be able to see that your commitment has won over many to the "Far Northland"!

If you would like to attend the National Jamboree as a staff member to promote Northern Tier and the other National High Adventure programs please contact me at (218) 365-4811 or by E-mail at: doug@ntier.org

## Alumni Association Directors and Officers

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Number in parenthesis is years remaining in current term

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# SAA gifts for scholarships; projects

The majority of the Northern Tier Scholarship steering committee members and the Alumni Association directors have agreed on several matters on donations.

There is still a need for additional (endowed) Sommers Scholarships. We have one endowed scholarship (in memory of Chris Breen) at this time and are awarding about 20 scholarships annually. The minimum contribution to fully endow a scholarship is \$25,000. A scholarship is endowed when the donation is made, not when the scholarship is awarded, hence scholarship donations made in 2001 are fully tax-deductible donations for the 2001 calendar year.

The endowing donor may specify how the scholarship is named, and may also specify criteria of the recipient in addition to the general scholarship guidelines. You may want to consider that the scholarship recipients are members of the Boy Scouts of America or are members of Scouts Canada.

Despite downturns in the securities markets, it may make sense for some investors to consider making their contributions to qualified non-profit [501 (c) 3] organizations, like SAA, through gifts of appreciated securities. The donor avoids any capital gains taxes and none are paid by the SAA. In addition, the donor may take a tax deduction for the full market value of the securities on the date of transfer and the SAA absorbs the cost of liquidation. This method also allows the donor to maintain access to after-tax

cash, which would otherwise have been used for the contribution.

Those wishing to take advantage of this option may contact Director Jay Walne (800-873-6919) for specific information on transferring securities to SAA's brokerage account.

Gifts of appreciated assets other than securities will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Treasurer Nigel Cooper (715-421-2091).

SAA will accept donations to fund other initiatives and special

projects. Any donation made (and accepted by the directors) for a specific project or initiative will not be used for other purposes without the consent of the donor - and then only if there is a good reason for seeking that consent.

## Okpik crews like interpreters

The number of scouts participating in the Okpik program is up by about 50 percent over two years, says Northern Tier General Manager Doug Hirdler. He says 689 scouts participated this past winter, when 87 crews went through the base. The number of participants is more than 100 higher than last year and well over the 411 of two years ago. Hirdler says the dog

sled program has attracted the largest increase in participation, but he believes the most significant reason for the increase in the inclusion of an interpreter in every program. "In the past we didn't necessarily do that," Hirdler says. Hirdler says leaders are concerned about the possibility of cold weather injuries, so a trained, experienced interpreter is a "safety

blanket" for them. Also, an interpreter can help keep things calm when, for example, scouts end up knee-deep in winter slush on a lake and visions of falling through the ice prey upon them.

He says many of the trips range farther than previous ones, going into the Quetico and covering considerable distances.

## Special Thanks

by Allen Rench

It is always an unexpected pleasure when someone takes on an unsolicited challenge, especially when it concerns the Base. This October a group of Scouts from Black Duck, MN under the leadership of our own Jim Barrot took it upon themselves to organize the start of the reforestation process at the Canoe Base. They spent the weekend of October 13-15 raking, clearing and scouring the earth around the emerging conifer seedlings found throughout the base. This effort is vital to enhance the survival of these seedlings.

The scouts and leadership involved were leader Randy Puschinsky, Dan Eisenrich, Eric Puschinsky, Tyler Puschinsky, Levi Dietrich, Matt Decker, Dan Bogart, Jeff Boden, and Dylan Hentages.

Jim has taken an additional step and ordered 5,000 pine seedlings, which are to arrive in mid May. These are bare-root seedlings, given to Alumni by the Arbor Day Foundation, 3000 are white pine, 1500 are red pine and 500 are white spruce. They are coming from the DNR at the Willow River

or Park Rapids (Badoura) nurseries. Anyone wishing to help plant them, please contact Jim Barrot 218 835-4973 or Allen Rench 507 536-0736.

Our hat goes off to you "Minnesota Jim" and your scouts for a job well done.

## JUST A REMINDER

Annual Alumni Meeting is scheduled June 2, 2001 1:00 p.m. at Sommers Canoe Base. Come One Come All.

## Wanted: summer interpreters

You can help the Northern Tier High Adventure Program by finding qualified applicants for work as interpreters now. The base needs more applicants for this summer. You can contact the base for applications and information. Joe Mattson is the contact (joe@ntier.org).

The minimum age is 16, but there is no upper age limit to be hired. You must pass a physical exam, though. Many SAA members have worked in a variety of jobs at the base in the past.

Northern Tier sends hiring information to the local councils every year, but that information may get better attention if a local person calls and encourages them to

use it. Making a call to the person in your council who handles the news publications can mean that the Northern Tier ad asking for staff will be used when it otherwise might not have been. If you participate in your local council, and carry staff applications with you, you're helping. You may pass out more applications than are actually filled out and filed, but each one gives you a chance of finding someone who will thank you for decades, because you showed them a great opportunity.

Staff applications are available by calling the base at 218/365-4811 or by writing to PO Box 509, Ely, MN 55731. Staff applications are also online at www.holy.org.



You don't need to set up a booth, but you might recruit several prospective interpreters this way. **Roy Conradi** ('59-'63) manning a booth at the Atlanta Scout Show.

# Red Renner: Hol-Ry forever

by Cherie (Bridges) Sawinski, Roger Clapp, Dave Greenlee, Mike Holdgrafer, Dave Hyink, John Parish, Sr., Bob Rasmussen, Brian and Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Larry Whitmore

Red Renner is remembered as a large man, in body and in spirit. Swampers and young guides remembered him as the icon they looked up to as their leader, who had the size, voice, and hair of a misplaced Viking. He was an authority on the base and the boundary waters for the staff of the late 50s, not to mention his leadership as a skilled craftsman. He was a Charlie Guide through and through. Winnie was with him then too, and just as delightful to know then as now.

He spent 30 years after the base as a respected school teacher, a teacher's teacher. He taught the craftsmanship he knew so well. And as he aged his head was gradually more exposed to the sun, but Winnie could never get him to wear a hat. So the head on that tall body was always sunburned, and bumped and bruised.

Everything about Red was big, his size, his laughter, his smile, his enthusiasm, and the sparkle in his eyes. Mike Quinn, John Oosterhuis and Roger Clapp remember his infectious enthusiasm during workweeks, calling the experience "being in his classroom." Red may be the person who invented the term "work week." Discovering that carpenter ant damage meant extra work even seemed to thrill, not disappoint him. They developed into the "four stooges," who could be heard to exclaim in a moment of confusion, "I want to

talk to Moe!"

He made people feel valued, and put as much enthusiasm into his play, when the work was done. He could be full of fun at the right time. Like the time he kept the group laughing before a meeting of Northern Tier, Sea Base and Philmont representatives in New Mexico. He greeted the group with bear hugs at the Albuquerque airport, then jollied them on the trip to the Scout Ranch with tales of wilderness fish cookery. Dave Greenlee, Craig Pendergraft and Dave Hyink remember it well. He also found fun in a good game of cribbage and leaves behind a cribbage board he made together with John Oosterhuis.

Red was trustworthy, loyal, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and mostly irreverent - with a sparkle in his eyes at moments of the latter. Frenchy Garfield said at Sandy Bridge's death, "There are giants in the land - we are privileged to have know one of them." Perhaps more than one. He is now a lone Voyager, who paddles into the long day, where the lights begin to twinkle, from the water and rocks as the slow moon climbs.



Red, busy on a tractor at the base recently, and in the inset as a leader of guides in the 50s. Two pictures that prove he even knew how to wear a hat.

## Northern Tier interpreter is hero of Outdoor Life Channel show

### Ryan Pettigrew received the BSA Medal of Merit

Interpreter Ryan Pettigrew is on the air in an Outdoor Life Channel program that shows how he paddled out a seriously ailing advisor. That's only part of the story, though. It happened during the July 4, 1999 blowdown, which stretched emergency services to the limit. Pettigrew and his crew were out of the blowdown area and didn't know it was happening. But on July 4 scoutmaster Chuck Moyer, an advisor on Pettigrew's crew, got a small cut on his knee. By that night it had developed into a deadly infection known as "flesh-eating bacteria," which is regularly the cause of death and amputation in areas where travel to a hospital moves faster than a canoe. Moyer made Horse Portage walking on the infected leg, fainting only once. When Pettigrew radioed the base about the problem he learned about the blowdown and about how he would have to transport Moyer without the aid of an air evacua-

tion. The base received the aid of neighboring outfitter Missy LaTourell, though. Pettigrew paddled around U.S. Point, where she met him and took Moyer to the base. Pettigrew's work wasn't finished with the transfer, though. He and his paddler found themselves windbound by the heavy storms that blew down trees to their east. They sat out the night under their canoe. When they reached the crew the next morning food was all but out and weather was not conducive to fishing. Their trip to the base took 36 hours. A canoe swamped along the way as they battled the weather on Basswood.

Pettigrew received Scouting's fourth-highest honor for his efforts. Moyer pressed BSA's National Honor Committee to make the award, without telling Pettigrew about the effort. The Medal of Merit was presented last July in the Lodge at the Base by Joe Mattson and Doug Hirdler.

## Hedrick Award to Dick Shank



Dr. Dick Shank, recipient of the 2000 George D. Hedrick Memorial Volunteer Service Award. In this picture he is on the boundary that the BWCAW abuts. Dick is

an annual volunteer assistant with seasonal staff training, an association life member, and a Northern Tier Committee member.

### Update your directory

The Sommers Alumni Association member directory updates are available on [www.holry.org](http://www.holry.org). This is being updated monthly. Meanwhile, a new, printed directory is being printed and sent to the members (only).

### Rendezvous help

Chuck Rose is chairman of the upcoming 2002 rendezvous. If you would like to help, contact him at [crose@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:crose@stcloudstate.edu).

# Tid-Bits on the Sommers Clan

**Nigel** ('77-'79-'80) and **Cyd [Diesslin]** ('75-'80) **Cooper** [nigelcyd@juno.com] moved to PO Box 461, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495, where Nigel is Corporate Controller at Northland Cranberries, Inc. and Cyd is completing a Master of Education Degree.

**Milt Knoll** ('46-'49) [aknoll557@aol.com] is retired and living in Woodbury, MN.

**Bill LaPlante** ('82-'84) [bill.laplante@jhuapl.edu] lives in Bethesda, MD. He is an Engineer at Johns Hopkins University.

**Fred** ('69-'71) and **Micki**

**Rayman** sponsor the "No-Frills Pro Canoe Race" annually on Johnson Lake near Ely, MN. The race draws some of North America's top paddlers. Everyone is welcome to race, June 2-3.

**Dave Trampe** ('56-'57) has retired after 34 years of teaching Ag and Farm Management in high school and technical college.

**Paul J. Reitemeier, Ph.D.** ('70-'73) has joined the National Center for Ethics in the Veterans Health Administration in Vermont as senior medical ethicist. He works on ethical issues in health

care and teaches ethics at Dartmouth medical school. He says, "My friends and teachers at Sommers showed me how to find true north on the moral compass and I have benefitted every day."

**Lee Vanderbush** ('63-'66) re-

cently retired after 33 years with the South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks. Starting as a Game Warden, Lee ended his career as Asst. Regional Supervisor and Manager of Warm Water Fisheries for Western SD.

## Memoriam

A December Issue of *The Ely Echo* published the obituary of **Lillian C. Hirdler**, mother of Northern Tier General Manager Doug Hirdler. Mrs. Hirdler, 83, passed away December 22, 2000. Doug experienced his birthday, her

death and Christmas during a short period of time.

**N o r a**

**Seliga**, pic-

tured here, died

October 2000

after a battle

with cancer.

Shortly after

her death Joe

spent several

weeks hospital-

ized with pneumo-

nia. He says his children helped

pull him through it and he is feel-

ing much better. He is shoveling

snow and building a canoe now.

His 90th birthday is April 11.

The December 19, 2000 Duluth

paper contained the obituary of

**Marjorie Cary Kaveney**, daugh-

ter of Bob and Lil Cary. She died

12/11/00 in Houston at age 55. She

is survived by her father Bob (PO

Box 15, Ely 55731), sister Barbara

Cary Hall (1212 N 57th Ave W.,

Duluth, 55807) and niece Jessica

Hall of Portland, OR.

Bob said she died due to a fast-

developing and incurable cancer.



Nora Seliga

## A lifetime apart

**Hayden "Tink" Groth** ('69-'70), **Matt Cerny**, and **Roy Cerny** ('64-'70) getting a few grins outside the dining hall during the 2000 Rendezvous. It was the first time Roy and Tink had seen each other since just before Matt was born. (photo by Larry Whitmore)



## The view of the Northland from England

by Rick Maynard

I was one of 96 lucky applicants accepted for the Scout Associations International Camp staff Programme in America. My trip from England took me to Ely, MN and the Sommers Canoe Base. I was there with another seven international staff from Finland, Austria, England and West Africa. I spent six weeks at the base in 1986.

After two weeks of tree clearing, path building and general maintenance work around the base, I was sent on my first trip out on the lakes. This was a four-day trip with three other trail guides to check and maintain an area of approximately five lakes.

The work included clearing fallen trees on the portage trails, digging new latrines at the one-night campsites on the lakes, picking up litter and generally tidying up.

One lunchtime we were visited by a black bear, which seemed to think we had enough food for him as well as us! After getting a few hasty snapshots, we chased him away into the woods, but from then

on a wary eye was kept for further visits.

After having been back on base for two days and not even having dried my boots out I was given my first "crew" of Scouts to take out. The trip was to take us over the border into the Quetico area of Canada for ten days. The Scouts were from Tupelo, Mississippi and there were seven boys and one adult all of whom I was responsible for. We spent a lot of time fishing in the lakes, which are so pure you can drink straight from them without any worries. In total we traveled around 70 miles and managed to get back safely without having to use our emergency two-way radio.

After a further four days I received my second crew from Palatka, Florida. They thought it was quite amusing to have an English guide to take them around the Wilderness and the eight days with them was great fun. We traveled around 50 miles into Canada, visiting Dorothy Molter. Dorothy, known as the lady of the Wilderness, lived on the Isle of Pines on Knife Lake for 60 years.

All the trips out on the lakes were an unforgettable experience. The sweating and cursing of carrying a 40 lb. pack on your back and a 75 lb. canoe on your shoulders - I always managed somehow to carry the canoe! - were soon forgotten in the evening. After a good meal of beef stew, noodles and peas, the evenings were spent fishing or just relaxing with a mug of coffee, watching the sunset and listening to the call of the Loon.

The Loon is the state bird of Minnesota and has an eerie call, or wail as it is known, which from a distance sounds like the call of a wolf drifting across the lake and once heard is never forgotten.

The six weeks I spent at Chucky's Boat Base were one of the best summers I have ever had. The friends I made there and the experience of the Northern Wilderness can never be described by words and if anyone has the chance to do the same as I have done, I can thoroughly recommend both the camp staff programme and the unpolluted beauty of the Northern Wilderness of Minnesota.

## Henry Bradlich: broken paddle

*continued from page 1*

He died at the scene of an accident near mile marker 37 on Highway 53, south of Cotton, MN at 10:15 p.m. He was on the passenger side of a car driven into the path of an oncoming car, which hit his car broadside. Others in the accident were treated and released.

Henry was born March 6, 1914 in Eveleth, MN. His mother died when he was young and his father, August Bratulich, raised him and all of his brothers and sisters. They all worked together in the family bakery. He married Jane A. Trevarrow on New Year's Eve of 1940. He earned a Master's Degree from the University of Minnesota and was a teacher and counselor in the Eveleth Schools. He was preceded in death by his wife, a granddaughter, two sisters and five brothers.

JL6-3048 Out

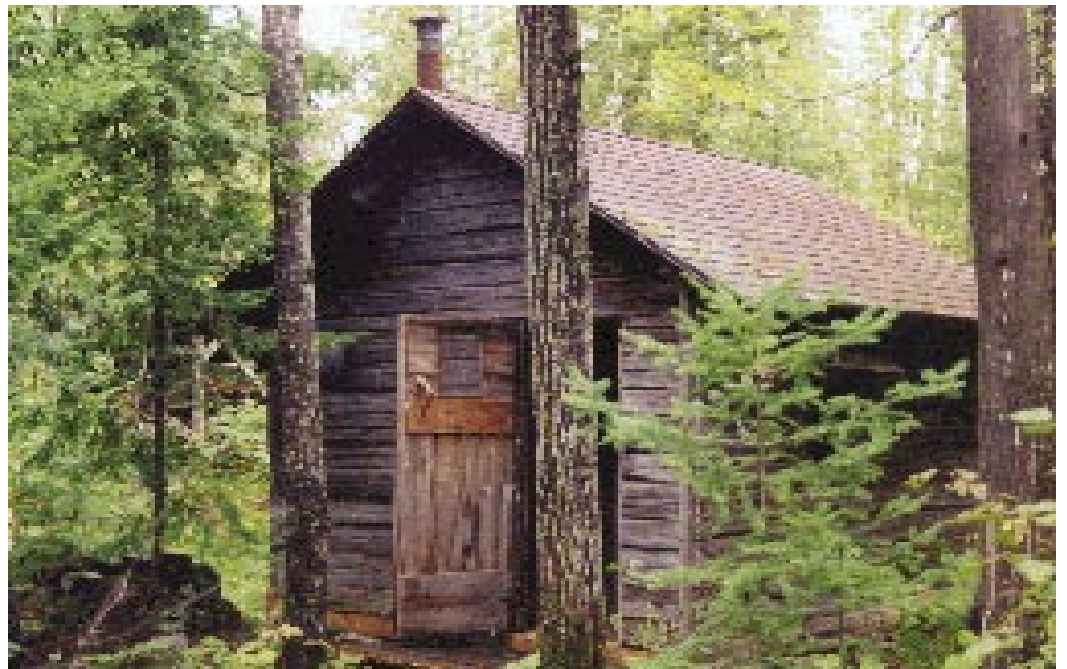
## Remembering Dorothy Molter

If you traveled through Knife Lake prior to 1986, you had the opportunity to meet Dorothy Molter and enjoy a bottle of her homemade root beer. The memory and legacy of Dorothy is being preserved at the Dorothy Molter Memorial Museum, located in a grove of red pine on the eastern edge of Ely. The museum includes many of Dorothy's things, which are housed in two of Dorothy's cabins that were disassembled by some of her friends and moved to Moose Lake by dogsled after her death. The museum is operated by the nonprofit Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation. When you visit the museum you are able to look through Dorothy's guest books from years past. You can even enjoy a bottle of special recipe "Knife Lake" root beer, bottled by James Page Brewing Co. The Molter Foundation is experiencing financial difficulty and is seeking financial support to maintain the museum. They are asking individuals who knew Dorothy, and are interested in perpetuating Dorothy's memory, to become members of the Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation. Individual memberships are \$25 annually, family memberships are \$40. Other membership levels are also available. Memberships can be sent to the Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 391, Ely, MN 55731-0391; Additional membership information is available by writing to the foundation, by e-mail at [dmolter@spacestar.net](mailto:dmolter@spacestar.net), by calling (218) 365-4451, or on the Internet at

[www.canocountry.com/dorothy](http://www.canocountry.com/dorothy). At the dedication of the Dorothy Molter Museum, Jim Mack, Executive Secretary of the United States Canoe Association, said "As we continue to remember Dorothy and keep her spirit alive, it is our hope that we all dedicate a piece of our lives to live as Dorothy did, in harmony with the environment, with great dignity, courage, helping mankind, and making a significant contribution toward a better world."

### Listening Point preserved for posterity

Listening Point, Sigurd Olson's cabin on Burntside Lake, is expected to be protected by a conservation easement agreement be-



The sauna is one of the buildings to be restored on the Listening Point property. (photo by Paul Reitemeier)

tween the Listening Point Foundation and the Minnesota Land Trust.

The legal contract restricts development on the 26-acre site. Sigurd's son Robert is president of the Sigurd Olson foundation, which owns Listening Point. He says he is surprised by how many people consider the cabin to be an important part of their lives, and seeing it is a moving experience. He approached the Trust, which holds conservation easements on about 16,500 acres. A representative of the trust commented that the site is the most significant of the 175 they protect.

Sig Olson's second book was titled "Listening Point," published in 1958. Sigurd and his wife Elizabeth chose the point while canoeing on Burntside Lake a few years before that.

### Sig Olson 102nd Anniversary Dinner

Earth Day eve will be the date for the Listening Point Foundation's annual memorial to Sigurd Olson and the values he supported. The reception and dinner will feature a keynote address of Dr. Kenneth M. Bro, executive director of The Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. Foundation President Robert Olson will preside. Reservations for the April 21 event must be received by April 14. Contact Dave or Tess Peterson, 2756 Bear Island River Rd., Ely, MN 55731-8310; or Bob or Vonnie Olson, 13567 N

Uhrenholdt Dr., Hayward, WI 54848. Tickets are \$21 per person for Prime Rib or Walleye and \$15 per person for Champagne

Chicken or Vegetarian dinners. Make a check to Listening Point Foundation and give your name, address and phone number.

## The Magical Miracle Tour

by Dave Hupke

During the adventurous summer of 1983, I became a Charlie Guide (Interpreter). This story is about one of several adventurous occupations I held since those Far Northland days of 1983.

Now, in April, I will take a 50cc scooter on an adventurous, educational, fund-raising journey around America. I picked up the scooter in early March, a Yamaha Zuma II. I went on a 60-mile journey on it and all went as planned. We are raising funds for the Children's Miracle Network. I plan to leave the Grand Canyon, with a laptop, digital camera and the knowledge of a Charlie Guide.

With the digital camera, I will photograph America entering the new century. These images will be updated once a week on the web, so students from around the world can learn more about America. The web page will be hosted by [www.peoriametropolitan.com](http://www.peoriametropolitan.com). The postal address is: The Magical Miracle Tour, Children's Hospital of Illinois, 530 NE Glen Oak Ave., Peoria, IL 61637.

Through this journey, I plan to visit Children's Miracle Network

Hospitals, schools and historical sites, to visually describe to the world, America entering the new century and the possibilities of virtual education.

From my first portage to this day, I still use what I learned, as a Charlie Guide (Interpreter).

### Tentative Itinerary:

April 16 start from the city of Grand Canyon  
 April 19,20 Phoenix, AZ  
 May 20 St. Augustine, FL  
 June 06,07,08 Arlington, VA & Washington DC area  
 June 12, 13 Philadelphia, PA  
 June 14 Upton, MA (could make side trip to Boston)  
 June 15,16 Boston, MA (possible side trip)  
 June 20,21 Bar Harbor, ME  
 July 04,05,06 Pekin & Peoria, IL  
 July 08,09 Minneapolis, MN  
 August 02,03 Bremerton, WA (commute to Seattle)  
 August 07,08 Portland, OR  
 August 11,12 Eugene, OR  
 August 25,26,27,28 Los Angeles, CA area  
 September 03 Finish at Grand Canyon City (Labor Day)

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. Saturday, March 10, 2001** Convened at the Dakota County Wescott Library 1340 Wescott Road, Eagan, MN 55123. Executive Committee members in attendance: Butch Diesslin, Allen Rench, Michael McMahon, Nigel Cooper, Dave Hyink, Pat Cox Others Attending: Roy Cerny, Chris Clay, Dave Greenlee, Leroy Heikes, Doug Hirdler, Craig Pendergraft, Chuck Rose The meeting was called to order at 11:47 a.m. by President Rench. The Executive Committee members present constituted a quorum. Reports President (Allen Rench) Thanks to Pat and Chuck for Rendezvous 2000 job well done. Learning. Triple Crown Awards very popular 16 youth, 9 adults since Sept., 2000. Saddened by deaths of Henry and Red Renner and other older alumni members. Treasurer (Nigel Cooper) Report presented. Motion to accept-Hyink/McMahon Approved. Secretary (Butch Diesslin) Up to date on minutes. Communications Reflections (Butch, Dave H.) Publish in March, July, October Hyink/Cooper. Web Page (Greenlee) Added on-line member directory. Getting 16-18,000 hits/month. Looking at adding continually changing materials. Membership (Butch Diesslin) Current Membership is 403, up from 358 in 1/2000. Hyink/Cox Approved. Staff Scholarship Program (Hyink) Breen Scholarship plaque given to Mike Sawinski for hanging in the lodge. SAA to fund Five (5) Scholarships. Hyink/Diesslin carried. Accepted scholarship program report. McMahon/Cooper carried. Greeting Card Sales Program (Butch, Tom Holleran [letter]) Order form in each newsletter. Encourage staff to submit artwork for summer staff. Motion Hyink/Cox: Contest for staff members for card artwork - 6/10/01 deadline - winner receives a life membership to SAA. + \$50 trading post credit. Carried. Dave G. will get flier for contest for staff mailing. Crossing Portages Program 2000-2004 (Craig Pendergraft, Dave Hyink) \$26,000+ annually, 112 participants, five-year total ~\$100,000. Second mailing coming out shortly. Recognition gifts - Grands and Doubles - Cary artwork to be laser engraved on Millennia Woods cedar boxes; personalized. Report approved with appreciation. McMahon/Cooper. Old Business Alumni Director Plaque - Retroactive to incorporation. Dave Hyink will have it made. Breen Memorial Plaque for Bissett - Dave Hyink will have it made. Alumni Involvement - 2001 Alumni Work Week(s) - (Chris Clay, Allen Rench) Motion Mike McMahon/Pat Cox: Multi-year, multi-phase project - to build Blacksmith Shop, Carpenter/Cooper Shop, Canoe Shed and Historical Museum building. These buildings will be made utilizing logs from the July, 1999 blowdown. Motion - McMahon/Hyink: Prep, rack and treat to salvage long logs, and to have 100' Jackpine logs sawed three sides. Cost not to exceed \$5,000. To be completed by October, 2001. Motion Carried. Staff Training - June 1-10, 2001. Alumni are encouraged to come and assist with the training. Cliff Jacobson, MN Canoe Assn., to attend. Mike Holdgrafer is the person to contact if alumni members plan to attend and assist. Seasonal Staff Perks - 1st Year - \$35 Trading Post credit; 2nd year - Meany Paddles - ordered by Hyink, 3rd year - Packs - Butch will order if needed, 4th year - Grohmann Fillet Knives - should have enough on hand.

Motion: Hyink/Diesslin: To give copies of "The Voyageur's Highway" and a copy of "A Diamond in the North" to all first year staff. Motion carried. Fur Trade Costume Wardrobe - tabled discussion and expenditure. Waiting for further direction from Martin Sawinski. Kim Renner Bielawski is donating patterns for historic clothing to the SAA. Rendezvous 2000 - Follow-up - Pat Cox gave a financial summary of the Rendezvous. Knives are still available through the Sommers Canoe Base Trading Post. New Business 2001 Annual Meeting Date - 1:00 P.M., Saturday, June 2, 2001 Director Nominations and Elections Directors elected in 2000 . (Reeve, Rench, Renner, Vollmer-Buhl) to serve as the nominating committee. 2001 Hedrick Award - Directors are to submit nominations to Allen Rench by May 1, 2001. Recipient cannot be a sitting director or officer. Dave Hyink will coordinate award

**Directors Meeting Minutes The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association Inc. Saturday, September 2, 2000**

Convened at the Charles L. Sommers National High Adventure Base 14798 Moose Lake Road, Ely, Minnesota 55731 Directors Present: John Christiansen, Pat Cox, Butch Diesslin, Dave Greenlee, Dave Hyink, Mark Nordstrom, Linnea Renner, Chuck Rose Directors Absent: Barry Bain, Roy Conradi, Jay Walne, Bob Welsh Others Present: Nigel Cooper, Leroy Heikes, Doug Hirdler, Michael McMahon, Lynn Reeve, Allen Rench

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Hyink. The directors present constituted a quorum.

Operating Plan: The operating plan was reviewed and revised. Some highlights to the review and revisions: Communications - [Dave Greenlee coordinator] "Reflections" newsletter - Mark Nordstrom, Editor Encourage members to contribute articles. Include submission information in the masthead. Encourage contributing of more photographs. Consider purchasing a digital camera.

www.holry.org: Continue to expand and update the photo gallery Add password access member directory Add Alumni Resource Person list, consider listing by scout council. Develop and award Recognition Certificate for "Outstanding Contributions to SAA" Consider giving a completion award for "Crossing Portages" finishers.

Membership - [Butch Diesslin, coordinator] Encourage non-member alumni to join Goal to increase membership by 5% annually. Place a password accessed member directory on www.holry.org with regular updates.

Motion Cox/Renner: A portion of Crossing Portages donations may be considered to be dues payments for program participants. Motion Passed.

Budget and Finance - [Nigel Cooper, coordinator] Development an endowment program/fund Promote the sale of SAA items - Book, cards. Perpetuate the Sandy Bridges Memorial Training Fund Events and Projects - [Mike McMahon, coordinator]

2002 Reunion/Rendezvous - Chuck Rose, Chairperson; Leroy Heikes, Vice Chairman

plaque production. "Outstanding Contributions" Certificates - Motion: Dave Hyink/Pat Cox to give. Former directors and officers, and other contributors. Future recipients are to be approved by the Executive Committee. Molter Foundation Membership - Motion: Diesslin/Cooper. Renew Paddler Membership @ \$100. Carried. Catch and Release Length/Weight Cards - Motion: McMahon/Cox: To print 5,000 for use at the Northern Tier bases. Tier use. Carried. Butch will arrange printing. Joint High Adventure Committee Meetings in Ely, September 27-29, 2001 Meetings at Grand Ely Lodge. Alumni members are invited to assist with the production of the meeting, and a Sommers base tour and meal on Friday. Screensaver - Discussed the selling canoe country image screen savers. Agreed to not pursue at this time. Stock Donations - Motion Hyink/Cox: To sell securities donated to the SAA

upon receipt by our broker, within the appropriate rules and guidelines. Carried. Rendezvous 2002 - Chuck Rose and Leroy Heikes. Planning has begun. Reservations made for the banquet at Grand Ely Lodge, formerly Holiday Inn Sunspree. Bob Cary to speak. Cory Kolodji to be Master of Ceremonies. Contacts being made for program events, speakers and special items. Miniature Paddle Program - Allen to check with Barry Bain on the status of the program. Reforestation - Jim Barott has expressed interest in assisting with the enhancement of the forest regeneration at the Sommers base after the July 4, 1999 blow down. The alumni association has received earmarked donations for reforestation. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Blaine Diesslin, Secretary

Alumni Work Week(s) Bob Renner has agreed to coordinate. Hopefully projects will be identified to promote in the fall newsletter; with dates set for promotion in the spring newsletter.

Staff Training Craig Pendergraft and Mike Holdgrafer, coordinators. We hope to identify areas where additional alumni can assist. The canoe base administration will be contacted in regard to dates and locations for the training.

Hedrick Library Finishing this project is a priority. Doug Hirdler informed the directors that Drs. Michael and Gail Saxrud, Ely Optometrists, have arranged for professional assistance in cataloging the library collection.

Miniature Paddles Red Renner has stepped up and is working to get paddles on display and promote additional alumni to add their paddle brands to the collection.

Historical Archives Interested alumni are encouraged to help preserve the canoe base history. One recognized area is the cataloging and preservation of the crew picture negatives.

Staff Building A new staff building is on the Base's future expansion site plan. Renovations of the existing staff building should involve new furnishings and fixtures that would be compatible for use in the new building.

New Business It was agreed that the election of officers and the appointment of the Executive Committee be postponed until 9:00 AM Sunday September 3, after the annual meeting and election of Directors.

The directors agreed to have Fishing Catch and Release length to weight conversion cards printed for free distribution to all Northern Tier staff members and crews. Butch will investigate the cost of having these cards printed for distribution at the Summer, 2001 BSA National Jamboree.

Informational Items

Doug Hirdler reported that there is no plan to have a specific representative for Northern Tier at the National Jamboree. Doug would welcome volunteers who would be willing to serve in the High Adventure pavilion as Northern Tier promoters.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Blaine "Butch" Diesslin, Association Secretary

**Directors Meeting Minutes The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association Inc. Sunday, September 3, 2000**

Convened at the Charles L. Sommers National High Adventure Base 14798 Moose Lake Road, Ely, MN 55731 Directors Present: Pat Cox, Butch Diesslin, Dave Greenlee, Dave Hyink, Linnea Renner, Lynn Reeve, Allen Rench, Chuck Rose Directors Absent: Roy Conradi, Brian Vollmer-Buhl, Jay Walne, Bob Welsh Others Present: John Christiansen, Nigel Cooper, Treasurer, Leroy Heikes, Michael McMahon, Mark Nordstrom, Craig Pendergraft, Bob Renner, Doug Hirdler

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by President Hyink. The directors present constituted a quorum.

Chuck Rose agreed to write a letter to each of the 2000 Director candidates and inform them of the results of the election.

Moved by Rose/Greenlee - that the officers of the Sommers Alumni Association be: President - Allen Rench Vice President - Pat Cox Secretary - Butch Diesslin Treasurer - Nigel Cooper These officers will assume their offices at the adjournment of this meeting. - Motion Carried

Moved by Hyink/Diesslin - that the Directors will affirm the officers annually. Carried

Moved by Cox/Rose - That the Executive Committee be composed of President - Allen Rench Vice President - Pat Cox Secretary - Butch Diesslin Treasurer - Nigel Cooper Past President - Dave Hyink At Large - Michael McMahon The composition of the Executive Committee will be effective immediately. Motion Carried

Motion Hyink/Greenlee - that the Executive committee members be affirmed annually by the Directors. Motion Carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m. Respectfully Submitted,  
Blaine "Butch" Diesslin, Association Secretary

# SAA Greeting Card Sale

Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association is taking orders for Greeting Cards. Some cards come with holiday messages, others are blank inside. They can be used year 'round to send greetings as well as a message of commitment

to Northern Tier programs.

The 2000 card features Bob Cary's drawing, "Company Coming," a pair of moose at a winter camp. All cards are printed using highest quality thermography on premium cards of recycled paper.

The backs of the cards carry a message saying you are a supporter of Northern Tier High Adventure. This is a distinctive and very handsome greeting card. The cards come 25 per package, including envelopes. A limited number of

1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999 cards: "Sled Dogs," "Commissary," "Lodge," "Hanson House," "Canoe Yard," and "Gateway" are available at discounted prices. All orders are subject to availability.

Quantity	Holiday Greeting/Blank inside	
___ 2000 Cards - "Company Coming" moose approaching campsite	___/___	x \$25.00= _____
___ 1999 Cards - Sled dogs pulling Christmas Tree	___/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1998 Cards - Commissary	NA/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1997 Cards - Portage at Basswood Falls	___/NA	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1996 Cards - Fort Gateway	___/NA	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1995 Cards - Canoe Yard	___/NA	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1994 Cards - Hanson House	___/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1993 Cards - Winter Lodge	NA/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ 1993 Cards - Summer Lodge	NA/___	x \$20.00= _____
___ Holiday Sampler - 25 assorted cards		x \$20.00 _____
___ <b>Special</b> , save 40%, off original issue price. 1999-1993 (five boxes, 125 cards) Our choice. Will try to honor requests.		x \$75.00= _____
___ Tax Deductible Gift to the Alumni Association for 2000		

**FREE SHIPPING**

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Ship to: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Ely, MN 55731-0428

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