



REFLECTIONS



NORTHERNTIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

Jackpine Bob to speak at the Rendezvous 2002 banquet

Bob Cary, Ely's author, newspaper editor, fishing guide, Northern Tier volunteer, and all around pretty-good-guy will be the featured speaker at the Sommers Alumni Association Rendezvous 2002 banquet at the Grand Ely Lodge in Ely. The Saturday night banquet is only one of the highlights of Rendezvous 2002. Bob's

some new ones. Among our alumni donating their time and talent are Cory Kolodji (banquet master of ceremonies and Voyageur), Eric Simula (birchbark canoe maker and Voyageur), Mike Holdgrafer (Banquet Program), Doris Kolodji, Dianne Rench, and Laurel Theis (Kids Programs), Larry Hanson and Don Richard

be returning. You can make stuff with him or just watch. This is a real team effort.

Mike Cichanowski came to Sommers as a Scout twice in the 1960s.

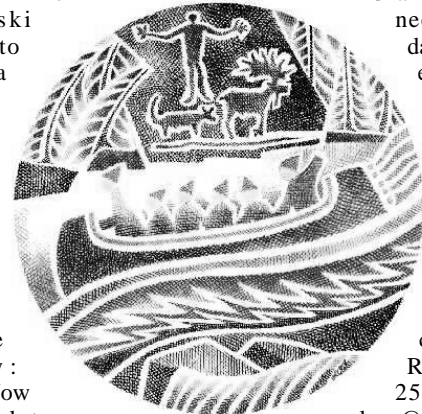
Back home in Winona, Minnesota, he started his own canoe company: Wenonah. Now he giving back to the Base by serving on the Northern Tier Advisory Committee and donating the Sommers Alumni one of his company's lightweight canoes. Please see the enclosed forms and order tickets for a chance to win this fabulous prize.

Real Berard is internationally-famous for his diverse artistic talents (from painting to snow sculpture) as well as his Manitoba canoe maps that many of us used at Bissett. He has created a special drawing titled *North Wind at Hegman Lake* (see above) for us to use as a logo for our Rendezvous. The original will be auctioned at our reunion banquet Saturday night. Until then, Chuck Rose is "storing" it in his living room.

Register soon on the enclosed forms to help us serve you better.

The banquet people at the Grand Ely Lodge need an attendance figure by early August, so please register by August 5 to save yourself extra money.

We'd love to have your help, so contact Chuck Rose at 320-252-2768 or clrose@stcloudstate.edu.



Bob Cary will speak at the Rendezvous 2002 Banquet

daughter Barbara Cary Hall will help out with music. Friendship and fellowship, paddle and sing, tours of the Base and Sig Olson's Listening Point, then and now, you'll have plenty of chances to relive old memories and make

(Listening Point Tours), Joel Sheagren (Photography), Ray Mattson (T-shirts), and Leroy Heikes (Canoe Raffle and all kinds of stuff). Dave Hanson, the blacksmith that shared his expertise with us at our last reunion will also



Cory Kolodji will be the banquet master of ceremonies

President's Message

by Allen Rench

This past October my brother Robert called me up after a doctor's office visit. After calming my worries about his visit he ignited my interest when he mentioned that he may have found a lost alumnus. He immediately caught my attention and explained that during the course of his examination the conversation between him and his doctor turned toward canoeing, Minnesota, and Canada. Knowing my brother, he would find some way to let his doctor know about Sommers Canoe Base. Somewhere along the way his doctor beat him to the punch. He told him that he has a brother who worked at a Boy Scout Base in Ely during the mid 70s. Moments later, when Robert started breathing again and after the doctor put away the crash cart, Robert managed to tell him that he worked at that place too, but during the "Pre Mud Age."

He went on and on about how he came across this doctor. I was so anxious to find out who this mystery person was, all I could think of was how I just wanted to reach through the phone and drag it out of him. Finally, he took a breath to say he was seeing a Dr. Ash and did I know a Lawrence Ash. I just could not believe the words I was hearing. I had just been looking for Lawry some weeks earlier but I could find no trace. I threw up my hands and began to laugh. Did I mention that I was on the highway during rush hour, on my cell phone in front of a semi full of chickens. When I heard Lawry's name I knee jerked and accidentally stepped on the brake. Soon black smoke, dust and feathers appeared behind me with a dozen cars hitting the shoulder. Thank goodness there were those four extra lanes of highway on the other side of the median for that trucker to ease onto.

Because of that accidental meeting my brother had, I got a strong tug to locate as many of The Lost Alumni from my era as I could. In the weeks that followed I dug out my old base directories and scanned the Internet to find clues to the whereabouts of these old friends and legends. I was

amazed when I turned up one then two then four - which led to 10 then 30. It was such an amazing journey trying to find these people who unknowingly played such an important part of my life. When I would place the calls to their homes I would generally open up the conversation with, "You probably do not remember or even know me BUT what do the words Charlie's Mine, Prairie Portage, The A-GO-GO, Bay Bread, Round Salted Class B do for you?"

More often than not there was a loud crash at the other end of the line and an apology for dropping the phone on the floor and then the inevitable, "Who the Heck is this?" When I would respond with Hol-Ry I was comforted to hear Red Eye. After long conversations of canoe stories mixed with "Do You Remember" and just reacquainting ourselves they just could not imagine that someone was taking the time to seek them out. They were all so grateful, in fact some had just pulled out their stash of base pictures and memories and had been showing them off for the first time in ages to family and friends. It is amazing - the directions we all have taken in our lives. Some have circumnavigated Lake Superior, creating a legacy of artwork of their journeys. Others are in Alaska continuing their adventures. Others hold positions in government, military, or universities. Some own business. And others, like many of us, are just down home folk. But what is amazing - each one has had some unique adventure to share with me. From those phone calls I have come away with a greater appreciation of the impact that Sommers Canoe Base has had on us, but more importantly, what it is still doing for the Scouts and Leaders who cross through our gates.

This being our reunion year I urge each one of you to take the time and look through our Lost List and select a person from your past and locate him or her. Help them to reconnect and be a part of our Family and to be a part of Reunion 2002, but more importantly, be there to greet them.

Alumni Association Directors and Officers

Director/President (2)**	Allen Rench	(507) 536-0736
Director/Vice President (1)**	Patrick Cox	(847) 223-6074
Secretary**	Butch Diesslin	(218) 365-6904
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Director (3)**	Dave Hyink	(253) 863-6406
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At-large**	Michael McMahon	(651) 483-5759

Number in parenthesis is years remaining in current term

**Executive Committee Member

Program Liaisons

Mr. Keith Gallaway	National Director of High Adventure Philmont Scout Ranch, BSA Cimarron, NM 88714 (505) 376-2281
Mr. Doug Hirdler	Director and General Manager, Northern Tier National High Adventure Program P.O. Box 509 Ely, MN 55731 (218) 365-4811
Mr. John Gottschalk.	Chairman, National High Adventure Committee Omaha World-Herald Co. Omaha, NE (402) 444-1000 x2240 (402) 346-346-8804 (fax)
Mr. John L. Parish, Sr.	Chairman, Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee P.O. Box 550 Tullahoma, TN 37388

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Seliga Canoe Book Nearing Completion

Good news. The new book *Joe Seliga & the Art of Canoe Building* is scheduled to be published this summer. The book will feature text by Maine wood/canvas canoe builder Jerry Stelmok and over 100 color photographs by Ely artist Deborah Sussex. Jerry is also author of *Building the Maine Guide Canoe* (International Marine Publishing Company, 1980), co-author (with Rollin Thurlow) of *The Wood & Canvas Canoe* (Harpwell Press, 1987) and owner of Island Falls Canoe Company in Atkinson, Maine. In addition to her photography business, Deborah has considerable wilder-



ness travel experience and has helped teach Leave No Trace principles during staff training at Sommers for several years. Jerry is currently working on a section of the book featuring Sommers Canoe Base. Stories from Charlie Guides may be included in the book as well. The book is being printed by MBI Publishing Company of St. Paul, MN.

Great news. We are trying to arrange for this new book to be available for sale at the reunion banquet. Both Joe and Deborah plan to be available to autograph books. Jerry has other commitments in Canada, but he is willing

to autograph a box of books beforehand for us if there is any demand. Estimated price: \$34.95

Another option, you can pre-order the book online at: <http://www.trailstuff.com/paddling/..%5Citem%5CCNU034.html>.

Other sellers may have it available for pre-order this summer.

Learn more about Jerry and Deborah at these addresses:

<http://islandfalls.wcha.org/index.html>

<http://www.deborahsussex.com>

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.holry.org.

Volunteer for 2002 Nor'wester Staff Training

by Mike Holdgrafer

From time-to-time, I run into SAA members who are looking for a chance to reconnect with the Northern Tier Program. But, the separation of time and distance raises doubts about what they think they can contribute, whether in terms of experience, knowledge or even time. The truth is there is value in the participation of every volunteer who joins in the training. I welcome volunteers who read this to join us this June.

Training has changed a lot, but much remains the same. Here is a summary of what you can expect.

The U.S. staff will train in Ely and the Canadian staff will train in Atikokan. The total staff at all facilities will exceed 140. At each location, new staff will be divided into historically-named training brigades. An experienced staff member will lead each brigade. The brigade leaders will assemble on May 25, undergo on-base training the next day, and head out on the water from May 27 -29.

Shortly after the brigade leaders come off the water, on June 1, the majority of the staff will arrive and participate in on-base training

and preparation for swamper trips on June 5-9. On June 10-11, seminars will be conducted on-base by various professionals and/or volunteers. By that date, all of the Canadian staff will be at the Ely base to join in the seminars and various social activities. Together with staff and volunteers, there will be over 160 people on base. On June 12 the first crews arrive. New to training this year will be sessions specifically designed for base staff.

What can I do? There are many opportunities in Ely depending on the flexibility of your schedule. You can participate in any part of the training from May 25 - June 11. Volunteers are needed for:

- On-base brigade leader training.
- On-Water brigade leader training trip.
- On-base staff training.
- Swamper training trips.
- Seminar presentations.
- Base staff training.
- To help with staff activities and meals.

Maybe it's been a few years since you've been on the water, so now is your opportunity. Each year, we desperately need volunteers to

accompany the swamper trips as resource advisers to share their experience with the training brigades while on the water. All you need, other than time from your busy schedule, is a Class III medical form, signed by a physician in the 12 months prior to the swamper trip. We also ask you come a day or two before the swamper trip, to participate in brief review sessions and to assist with on-base preparations. There is no other cost other than for fishing licenses. We'll even throw in a SAA golf shirt for any SAA member who volunteers to help with training.

We also need volunteers for on-base training before the swamper trips, or to be a part of the SAA presence at sessions, whether formal or informal. Plus, there will be elective seminar sessions, where the staff will choose topics they want to learn more about. Last year's sessions included birch bark canoe-building, fishing, group leadership methods and Voyageur history, just to name a few. Maybe you're an experienced photographer, amateur astronomer or facilitator. You can share your expertise,

teach a session or two, then spend the rest of the day attending other sessions and mingling with other Charlie guides and the latest batch of Charlie guides in-training. I invite you to go to www.holry.org and spend a few minutes reading the article about last year's training and the seminar day, as well as more about this year's training. Perhaps, after you've read that article, you'll have a few ideas about how you may participate.

Whatever you decide, the bottom line is that we need you, for a night, an afternoon, a day, a few days or whatever your schedule can spare. The strength of the SAA lies in the rich tapestry of history, tradition, experience and knowledge that each individual member brings to the association. When each of us participates, we ensure that the legacy of the SAA is passed on to another generation. I invite each of you to join us this June for some fun.

Please contact Mike: 918.669.3048 (work), 918.743.5565 (home) or mholdgrafer@dollar.com for more details.

Himalayan trek is high culture adventure

by Paul Reitemeier

Langtang, Nepal

Sunday Oct 29, 1995

Late last night my trekking partner, Chris, and I were very fortunate to be in a position to observe a Tibetan Buddhist monk perform a ceremony for the dead. He was seated on the wooden floor a few feet from the wood burning stove in the main anteroom of the small wooden hotel in which we were staying. Chris and I are on a 23 day trek to climb Yala Peak at 18,000 ft. and this is the fourth day of our trek.

Our Sherpa guide, Ki-Pa, secured for us comparatively comfortable accommodations in private rooms down a narrow, creaking hallway in a two story hotel that reminded us of old western movies. The entire building is built of rough hewn wood that was portered by Sherpas on bare feet or open sandals to this location at 11,000 ft. elevation about 100 miles north of Kathmandu and less than 20 miles south of the Tibetan border. On the opposite hall from our small rooms is an open ward room with space for perhaps six sleepers. All the rooms are combinations of wood floors and window frames, unmortared stone walls and wide planked roofs whose six-foot wooden shingles are held in place by the ubiquitous Nepali stone. The negotiated fee for the night was 2 US\$ for three rooms.

We had just finished a very large meal of the usual fare, fried whole potatoes, tempura broccoli, spicy peas and noodles, tea and crispy wafers. All of this was preceded by an appetizer course of tomato soup and biscuits, with tea. As we were finishing, a very old man in very dirty and ragged, smoke-darkened clothes, thong sandals and a tired orange wool knit cap came in and sat down on the opposite side of the wood burning stove next to our table. A foam pad was placed carefully on the floor exactly as he instructed, and then he turned to us and asked in clear English, "Pen?" signaling with his hands that he wished to write something on his pad of paper.

We loaned him a pen and he meticulously wrote out five lines in careful Tibetan. At first we paid little attention to what he was doing other than our moving the kero-

sene lamp several times in an attempt to aid his writing, only to have him tell us with hand gestures that it was best on the table in its original position.

We learned later that the man was a high lama from the 500-year-old Goompa, or monastery in Kyangjin, our destination for this evening. The monk set about preparing for a death ritual connected to the death a week earlier of the boy, aged 8 or 9, who lived at this hotel with his parents, our landlords. Apparently he had gotten sick very fast and died in one day at the hospital, a very difficult three day emergency trek by foot from here. The paths are all pedestrian as no wheeled vehicle could ever manage the terrain.

He asked for and was brought at once a large metal bowl filled with a kind of sand and clay compound which he molded with his hands. He made three figures of people; one for the dead boy, one for his best friend and one for a kind of guide into the next world. He then molded a tiger and set all 4 pieces on a plank of wood about 2 feet long. The first human figure was about 6 inches high and faced off the narrow end of the board. Next was the tiger, about 8 or 9 inches long, and on top straddling its back was the second figure. The third figure followed the tiger, and all 4 faced the same direction.

The monk pulled out several very tiny black and white hair strands that earlier he had extracted individually from a couple of sheep and yak wool clumps. These he very carefully would tightly around three foot long sticks, alternating black and white colors and leaving a tuft of colored hair protruding from the top of each wound piece along the stick shaft. When he was finished he inserted the sticks vertically into the tops of the heads of each human figure.

With borrowed scissors he cut the five sentences he had written into long strips that he rolled into short cylinders and then placed into the stomachs of each figure. Our cook, Tashi, had joined us to

observe this slow and fascinating process and he explained that the writings were prayers for each figure to use in negotiating the passage of the Dharma of the dead boy

figurine and the Pepsi bottle. The little chalice was awarded three pats of butter. The monk consulted his very tattered and darkly smudged book of prayers several



The village of Langtang, Nepal

into the next world. (At least we think that is what he meant to convey. When you ask Nepali people if something is true, and they intuit that you hope it is true, they will consistently try to please you by agreeing with your ideas as the correct ones.)

At this point more than an hour had passed and the family members and our porters all took note that the preparations were completed and the praying would soon begin. The edges of the room slowly filled with more people whose facial expressions and quiet intensity suggested that few had been to such a ritual, or at least not often. The board with four figures, feathered sticks and written prayers was placed in front of the monk facing him. A small chalice was placed on his left and filled with water poured from an old glass Pepsi bottle. Incense was ignited and a tray of red powder was placed in the monk's lap. He also had two smaller trays, but the room was dark and their contents were difficult to discern. One appeared to be holding some sort of seeds and flower petals, the other a mixture of white grain or powdered rock and a brown grain larger than rice.

As the monk prayed, all observers maintained a respectful silence. We were each given a pat of yak butter on our heads, as were each

times as he led the chanting. I could see some of the observers' lips move, but heard no sounds emerge.

The monk held a *doije* (a wooden handle eight inches long protruding from a two-inch-diameter tin cylinder to which tiny metal balls are attached by strings) in his right hand and a metal bell in his left. He rang the bell, twisted the *doije* back and forth so that the balls clacked against the cylinder, chanted the prayer, threw red powder on the figures and seeds on the water-filled chalice, and poured water from the Pepsi bottle over the pat of yak butter balanced on the lip of the chalice. He then repeated each step with double attention to the seeds and chalice.

No one paid us much attention so we simply kept as low a profile as our three or four flash photographs would allow. Next to the board holding the figures were placed a couple of candle holders but placed in them were several food items and different kinds of incense along with embers from the cooking fire in the next room. We watched, listened, smelled, tasted, and touched the entire experience for more than two hours until we had to depart for our beds. We desperately wanted to stay but were very sleepy and wary of over-

(continued on page 5)

Wenonah Canoe Raffle

The 18 foot *Sundowner* is one of Wenonah's most popular canoes. This is a touring canoe that has nearly the speed and glide of a cruiser yet with nearly the volume and seaworthiness of an expedition

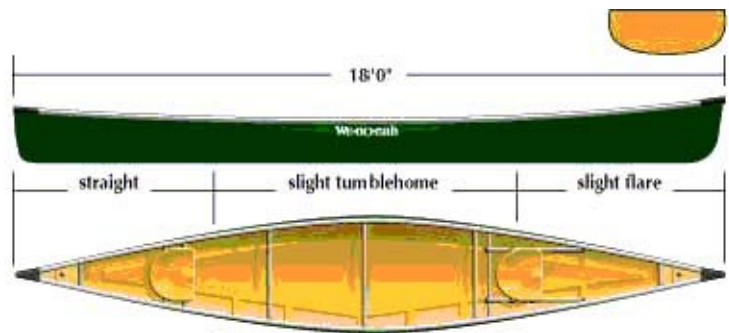
hull. It's a fine design that's quite sleek but isn't so radical to demand skilled paddlers. While it benefits from capable hands, as all canoes do, the 18 foot *Sundowner* is safe enough for anyone. The bow parts

water easily and tracks well, but is full to rise on waves and turn. This hull likes big lakes or fast rivers. In lightweight Kevlar, this canoe weighs about 42 lbs.

We are thankful to Wenonah

Canoes and Mike Cichanowski for donating this canoe for the Rendezvous fund-raising raffle. Raffle proceeds will be used by the Sommers Alumni Association to fund staff scholarships.

See the top of page six for a raffle ticket purchase form.



Construction Project Update:

by Chris Clay

Planning work has gone forward this winter for the blacksmith and canoe building shops using the White Pine logs from the blow-down several years ago. At this point we have architectural plans courtesy of Don Melander and scale models developed for presentation at the Alumni Board meeting. Along with that an 18 ton crane has been moved to the base and work has started on cutting the smaller, half-log pieces for wall

infill between the structural posts and beams. The overall inventory of logs is just enough for both buildings, if we cut logs to length for both buildings at the same time.

Our first project will be the smaller Blacksmith Shop and this is where all of you have a chance to participate in learning timber framing. Our plan is to fabricate individual pieces this summer with a projected reassembly date of the Labor Day weekend. We are working with a roofing tile manufacturer to obtain a masonry tile prod-

uct identical in appearance to cedar shakes with the advantage of being nonflammable. Each timber piece will take about two-to-three days to fabricate and your name will be inscribed on the ones you do. If you are unable to personally work on the logs but would like to sponsor a log cut by a professional

builder the cost will be \$600 per log and your name will be inscribed on that piece. Please contact me by e-mail, cclay_nslogs@earthlink.net, if you are interested in scheduling time this summer to come work on logs or sponsoring logs. Tools, plans, instruction, and work are provided.

Wanted: Alumni Directors

The Sommers Alumni Association must have members of the board of directors in order to function as a formal organization.

The 2002 Nominating Committee, headed by Dave Hyink, is taking nominations for the position of SAA Director. Nominations should not be made unless the nominee has indicated to the nominator their willingness to serve for at least 3 years. All regular and life members are eligible. Send nominations to Dave.

Directors Cox, Greenlee, Rose and Walne will complete their current three-year terms in 2002. They may be re-elected if they choose to run again.

Himalayan trek

(continued from page 4)

staying our welcome as non-Buddhist, non-Nepali observers. My partner Chris listened to the ceremony through the wall of our room for another 45 minutes, became intrigued and tried to take a peek on the proceedings. However, Tashi jumped up from his position and delivered a definitive "No! No!" at which Chris beat a hasty retreat. He noted ever more people arriving and joining in the prayerful chanting. At one point there was a loud crash of a serving platter, which, had it been in North America may have indicated that alcohol had finally emerged to af-

fect the course of events, but in Langtang, Nepal there is no telling what it might have signaled. Our guides' responses the next morning to our inquiries revealed precious little more detail of the ceremony or when it actually ended, but their enthusiasm for the next day's trek indicated that it must have been close to dawn.

Of all the days and nights we spent trekking in Nepal, this evening's activities were easily the best remembered and most meaningful to us for they illustrated with stark contrast how far removed we truly were from familiar places spiritual, metaphysical and geographical.

**You do not have to be present to win,
but transportation from Ely is the winner's responsibility.
You must be 18 to purchase raffle tickets**

\$5.00 per Ticket Number of Tickets _____

Mail to:

**Charles Rose
103 1st Ave N.
Sartell, MN 56377**

Name _____

**Address _____
_____**

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (H) _____ (W) _____

Email _____

Use this form for purchasing raffle tickets if you do not plan on attending the Sommers Alumni Reunion Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2002. Drawing will be held Saturday Aug. 31, 2002 at the Grand Ely Lodge, Ely, MN.

Northern Tier Seasonal Staff Scholarships

During 2001, the SAA along with the Northern Tier Advisory Committee has awarded 22 scholarships to Northern Tier seasonal staff totaling \$19,500. Each staff member is eligible to receive up to \$3,000 during their career. The scholarships are awarded directly to the financial aid office of the staff member's school.

The following staff, having completed their second year at Northern Tier, received \$500: Dustin Applegate, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas; Steven Cade, University of Pacific, Stockton, California; Ryan Campbell, Peace River Bible Institute, Sexsmith, Alberta; David Challen, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay Ontario; Thomas Copeland, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri; Brian Dobry, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Larry Evon, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario; Jacob Jeswier,

Lakehead University, Thunder Bay Ontario; Aaron Hall, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana; and Sarah Thompson, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario.

Third year staff receiving \$1,000 scholarships were: Evan Durland, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado; Alex Ferrier, Carlton University, Ottawa, Ontario; Patricia Griffith, Algonquin College, Pembroke, Ontario; Shani Morgan, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay Ontario; Alex Nepple, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater, Wisconsin; Kim Reid, Lambton College, Saria Ontario; and Melissa Stoops, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri

The fourth through sixth year staff awarded \$1,500 scholarships were: Karl Kruger, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska; Ben Matthies, University of Northern

Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Nathan Prather, Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas; Robert Richards, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa; and Jay Timmerman, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls, Wisconsin.

Additionally, Ben Matthies was

honored with the Chris Breen Award and Aaron Hall became the first recipient of the Terry J. Wall Scholarship. Congratulations to all of the awardees. Through the first four years of the scholarship program, \$70,000 have been awarded to 64 individual recipients.

The allure of misery

by Mark Nordstrom

When I recruit people for the Northern Tier staff, I try to find members of council camp staffs who have already made a commitment to work there during the summer. I aim for the next summer. Recently I was talking to four 16-year-olds about the unique experience of spending the whole summer living in a wilderness area. All the days are sunny in those stories and they pay rapt attention, then take the canoe base application home with them. I hope some of them will apply.

Maybe it was because I was in Missouri (pronounced by many as misery), but the topic turned to cold, rainy days; being windbound; cooking in the rain; and other less than comfortable events. I was amazed when the circle of four tightened around me as I talked. They were actually more enthralled by those stories than by tales of big fish or big diving rocks. So, I've learned; it's the challenge stupid. Young people still want it and there are few better than working at Northern Tier.

The Oldest Living Charlie Guide (maybe) Tells All (well, a lot)

by Chuck Rose

The next time you're in the Lodge, take a look at the carved Charles L. Sommers sign. In the lower right-hand corner is a plaque which reads *Carved by Ed Woolverton*. Ed came to be a guide in the Boundary Waters in 1938 after being recruited at a Scout camp by Hod Ludlow, the program's second director. Being guide set the tone for him. His life since has been one of wanderlust and homing instinct, paralleling the process of an adventurous canoe trip. I'd met him at a reunion, but wanted to know more about him. So I tracked him down at his island home in Lake Vermilion.

Woolverton worked for the Region Ten Canoe Trails for two summers. During his time at the Base, Ed paddled an all-wood Willetts canoe; the rest, he says, were canvas. "We never even let the canoes touch the rocks, we made the kids jump out at the portage and wade on in at the end of the portage." Ed's crews came from all over, including one from his hometown of Albert Lea. One of the Scouts was George Ehrhardt. They must have hit it off because they still take annual trips into the Quetico. Ed also used his artistic talents to make a souvenir map which was passed out to the Scouts. Ed visited the Lodge while it was being built in the winter of 1942, on his way to the Quetico for a solo winter hiking trip. Low snow made the backpacking easy. Another of Ed's adventures was when he represented the Boy Scouts in a 500 mile canoe race from Bemidji to Minneapolis. Thirty teams entered, half finished. Ed's team was 14th.

After working with the Scouts, Ed spent a summer as a lookout at the fire tower on Kekakabic Lake, and worked for the Forest Service at the cabin at Lower Basswood Falls the following summer. That year, there was a drowning at Wheelbarrow Falls on the Basswood River. Several men including Ed, the county sheriff, and Sig Olson searched for the victim. Ed thought that maybe he should go into the rapids with a rope tied around his waist to see where the

body might have gone. Everyone agreed with him. But once in the water, the tug of water at his feet made him change his mind. This upset Sig a bit, but Ed noted that nobody else volunteered to take his place. They put chicken wire across a narrow spot and the body was caught during the following night.

Ed visited Europe twice on shoestring budgets. During the winter of 1938-39, he worked for a shipping company to pay his way across the Atlantic, then hitchhiked around, staying at youth hostels or sleeping on hay stacks. He and a friend wanted to go around the world so they arranged for a half-price ticket on a boat to Australia to attend a Boy Scout Jamboree. One condition was they had to get to Tunis in northern Africa to catch the boat. They made it mainly traveling by bike, but when they got there, they were told the ship wouldn't make it to Australia in time for the jamboree so the offer was no good. He worked his way back through Italy, Switzerland, and Germany before sailing for home. Germany invaded Poland just after he left. Ed tried to enlist in the navy after Pearl Harbor, but was found to be physically unfit. Instead, he worked as a civilian for the same shipping company and helped the Allies invade Casablanca in northern Africa. The shipping schedules let him spend summers in northern Minnesota and at sea during the winter. Ed said, "They'd do anything to get somebody on a ship. To guys in prison, they said, 'Do you want to stay in jail or do you want to take an ocean voyage.' They got a lot of guys that way." In 1944, he almost enrolled in the Minneapolis School of Art. But on a street car on the way to school,

he saw an ad for overseas workers. He worked in the Azores, building an air base (he wound up in charge of the dish washing room).

During and after WWII, Ed bought land in and around Lake

Kolodji. Marie died in 1978. Ed still lives in the cabin. The garden has yielded an extensive treasure of arrowheads, pottery and even a metal awl and decorative metal plate and from a French fur trade rifle. He'd like the garden to get more light, but his kids won't let him cut down the Norway Pine he planted there over 50 years ago. Defiantly, he trimmed the lower branches.

Retirement hasn't slowed Ed much. He has been hiking in New Zealand, Tasmania, the Himalayas, and the Appalachian Trail. Last year, he received an award for being the oldest hiker to complete the Kekakabic Trail.



Ed Woolverton

Vermilion. His Treasure Island is just a few miles from Ludlow's Island (a resort now run by Hod's son). In 1946, he took his new wife, Marie, on a honeymoon canoe trip from Moose Lake, through the Quetico, ending on Lake Vermilion. He told her that they were staying on the lake even if they starved to death. They nearly did. They lived in a cabin built during WWI. Marie cooked for logging camps; Ed put up ice for people on the lake (this was before refrigeration). Later, he started a wood-working shop, making duck decoys, ash baskets, and furniture. He also trapped (he was good at getting mink) and found odd jobs. The point near the front of the cabin has a beautiful sloping rock, perfect for a canoe landing. There was good soil close by so Ed started a garden. Marie wanted them to have steady jobs and was very relieved when they were hired as caretakers for the Dayton's family home. During those 27 years, they raised two children, Vickie and Richard. Both continue to live on Lake Vermilion. His son, Richard teaches high school art in Chisholm, Minnesota with Sommers Alum Cory Godfrey

In Placida, Florida, Ed lives modestly in a trailer and continues to kayak. Among his legacies is a canoe and kayak route known as the Woolverton Trail and a hand-drawn map. In 2001, at 84, he found the time and energy for 8 and 12 day trips into the Quetico, paddling his 28 lb. solo kayak with George Ehrhardt in another kayak. They paddled from French Lake, through Russell and Sturgeon, down the Maligne River to Crane Lake. Vickie paddled with them the last half of the trip. Less than a week later, he was back, traveling with Vickie and a 60 year old couple from a neighboring Lake Vermilion island. Next time you're paddling up the Quetico's S-Chain, check out one of Ed's stories. The only place he has ever seen white water lilies with pink tips on their flowers is on South Lake. Ed calls it Barbara Lake. His fellow Charlie Guide, Dick Lavine, named it after his girlfriend about 1940. Dick and Barbara are now back together after each was married and lost their spouses. Ed is planning on going back into the Quetico next year don't be surprised if you run into this young-looking 85 year old on a trip.

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 _____
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