



REFLECTIONS



NORTHERN TIER NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE

Red Renner Memorial Work Week 2003

by Patrick Cox

Red Renner Memorial Work Week for 2003 was a smaller effort this year than in many years past. Due to the building constraints on the Ely base (see Spring Reflections), we worked in Atikokan this year. Since there are plans to make changes to Atikokan in the near future to accommodate its rapid growth, no major projects were planned for Work Week this year.

The result was a nice change of pace with some time to fish. It also gave us all an opportunity to see how much Atikokan has changed over the years. At least one of the Alumni attending work week actually guided out of Atikokan from its current location at Perch Lake – the buildings

were much different than in those old days of 7 or 8 years ago, but the main facility was still there. The more senior member of the delegation enjoyed seeing how much it has grown from the 10 or 12 crews with perhaps 80 kids and adults during the early 1980's to the 80 plus crews with almost 1000 kids and adults that they have today – no buildings and not even a base in the 80's to a base with more than a dozen crew and staff cabins today. Big changes and great fun to see all of this.

This year's project consisted of adding a porch to the main Atikokan building that was once the outfitting building for trip planning, food packing, admin,

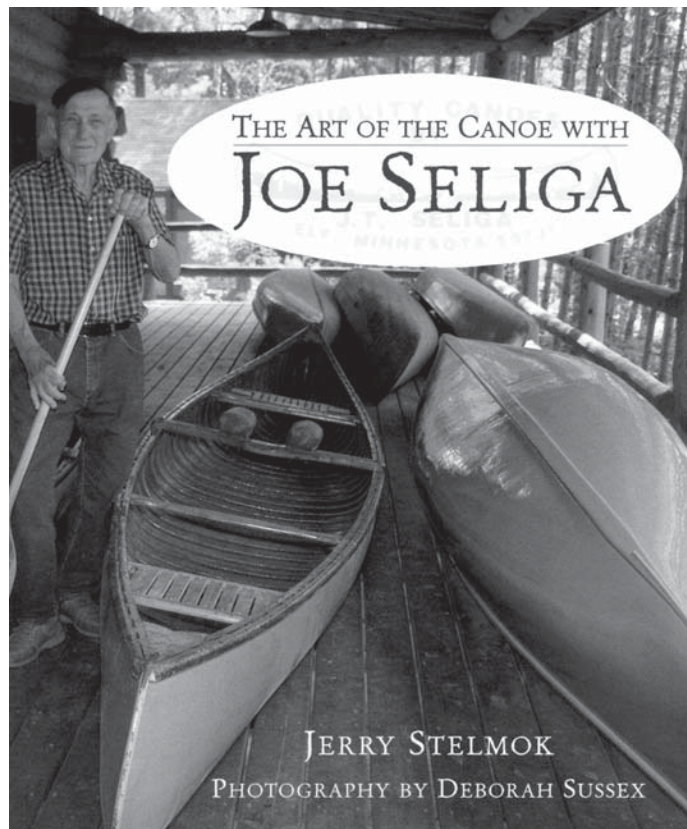
(continued on page 4)

David Hyink Silver Antelope Recipient

Dr. David M. Hyink, Edgewood, WA received the "Silver Antelope" Award on May 29th, at the National Annual Meeting of the Boy Scouts of America in Philadelphia, PA. One of the most distinguished awards given by the Boy Scouts of America, it recognizes leadership, exceptional character and distinguished service to youth. Nominations are submitted annually by the recipient's peers to the Western Regional Executive Committee of the BSA. David is a life-long Scouter, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout as a member of Troop 9 in De Smet, South Dakota. Locally, he has held numerous adult

leadership positions with Cub Scout Pack 526, Boy Scout Troop 525 and Venture Crew 525, chartered to Mt. View Lutheran Church in Edgewood. He has been a key volunteer in the Pacific Harbors Council for many years, and a member of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee, BSA, for 17 years. Recently, he has been a galvanizing force in the development of the Northern Tier Seasonal Staff Scholarship Program. This initiative has provided over \$95,000 in academic scholarships to young men and women who have dedicated their college years to serving youth as staff

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Seliga Book Wins Regional Award

by Charles Rose

The Art of the Canoe with Joe Seliga won the 15th annual Northeastern Minnesota Book Award in the nonfiction category for books published in 2002. Joe's unique canoe building methods and his life story are chronicled in the book. The \$300 award to author Jerry Stelmok and photographer Deborah Sussex was presented May 21, 2003 in Duluth.

The Northeastern Minnesota Book Awards are presented by the University of Minnesota-Duluth Library, the Friends of the Duluth Public Library, and the Minnesota Humanities Commission. The awards recognize books that

substantially represent the history, culture, heritage, or lifestyle of northeastern Minnesota. Past winners include *Quiet Magic* by SAA honorary member Sam Cook, and *The Illustrated Voyageur* by Howard Sivertson (much of the art in this book is in the Dining Hall at Sommers).

According to MBI Publishing, the book is also a commercial success. Initially, 5,000 copies were printed; this was thought to be enough to last the lifetime of the book. However, the book has sold 6,000 copies in the first 9 months. Two different weeks, it was the

(continued on page 4)

President's Message

by Allen Rench

Being a nostalgia buff I have a fascination for looking into the recent past and marvel at how people and events have shaped our lives. Had it not been for the dreams and desires of a few scouting leaders some 80 years ago, the canoeing adventures that we experienced and scouts are still experiencing today, may never have occurred. There may have never been an internationally known facility as Sommers Canoe Base perched at the end of the Moose Lake Road. Nor would there be an Atikokan or Bissett Base. Tens of thousands of Scouts may never have adventured into the BWCAW or Quetico. Life long friendships would never have been made.

Because of the Base, significant advancements in camping equipment technology have occurred. Through the direct input from **Sandy Bridges**, untold numbers of lives have been spared through the development of the Stearns Life Jacket. The elimination of youth programs in the BWCAW may not have been averted if it weren't for the watchful eye of the Alumni and Northern Tier management. Because of the Base's presence, there were numerous emergency rescues of non-scout groups as well as

efforts to prevent forest fires.

Dorothy "Ma" Harry in the sixties used the base as a model to develop her Northern Lakes Girl Scout Canoe Base. This program was passed on to **Doris Kolodji** a former guide for "Ma" and a Sommers Canoe Base Staff member.

From those meager beginnings, a canoeing program has emerged like no other that I am aware of. It has influenced and changed many lives. This is a special place where 200 Northern Tier Staff members — US, Canadian and other nationalities — come together as a pre-season group to hone their skills as wilderness interpreters, make friends and just have fun. This is a special place where past staff members can return and be energized by participating in the training programs. I had the pleasure of speaking to one such individual who has been away too long, **Terry Gibson**. He was amazed at what an outstanding staff had come together this summer and how he was glad to share his experiences and learn from his fellow swampers. He felt he gained just as much as he gave. This is a special place that has taught us most of all how to dream and that one dream can change the world.

Have you seen this guide?

We're still looking for the following guides, have you seen any of them lately? If you know how to get in touch with any of these folks - tell us how we can reach them!

Aasen, Doug 1968-69
 Accola, Jason 1998-99
 Adams, Micah 1995
 Adams, Sam 1989-93
 Addy, Ervin 1966
 Ahasay, Sean 1986
 Akins, Don 1968-69
 Aldridge, Steven 2001
 Allen, Bob 1961
 Allen, Jennifer 1990
 Allinson, Charles 1988
 Altieri, Anthony 1986-88
 Altieri, Nicholas 1990
 Anderson, Bruce 1991
 Anderson, Darren 1978
 Anderson, Sandra 1979
 Anderson, Scott 1975
 Applegath, Matthew 1995
 Armin, Dave 1956,63
 Asleson, Dan 1999
 Babcock, John 1966
 Bachman, Jim 1963

Bailey, Bruce 1970
 Baker, Robert 1986
 Baker, Gregory 1956
 Balot, William 1992-93
 Bardon, Larry 1961-62
 Barr, John 1961
 Barton, Rob 1966
 Bauen, Lyle 1956
 Baugh, Greg 1974
 Baugh, Regina 1974
 Baxter, Brad 1974
 Bell, Greg 1975
 Bentson, Nels 1968
 Bergstrom, John 1958,59
 Bernard, Gerald 1955
 Bevers, Michael 1984
 Bigelow, Lee 1955-56
 Bills, Duane 1955-56
 Bishop, Eric 1980
 Black, Robert 1983
 Blackshear, Eric 2002

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Number in parenthesis is years remaining in current term
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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. Terrance P. Dunn	Chairman, National High Adventure Committee Dunn Construction 929 Holmes Kansas City, MO 64106 (816) 391-2530 Fax: (816) 460-2786
James Shepherd	Chairman, Northern Tier National High Adventure Committee Birmingham, AL

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Rainy Nights and Bear Raids

by Rose Thielbar

One rainy night we were camped with friends on an island in Lac La Croix. We had spent the day canoeing down the Nina Moose River and had pitched our tents up on a slight hill. Supper, cooked on a smoky, lukewarm fire, left us vaguely longing for a little something extra; but by then the drizzle was threatening to develop into a downpour so we quickly washed up the pots and pans and set them on our over-turned canoe. As the men strung the food-pack up between two trees, I, being responsible for meals, grabbed the marshmallows and graham crackers, hoping that I might still be able to serve dessert. I stuck the treats in a metal bucket, shoved on the lid and we all ran for our tents as the rain began in earnest.

We lay there quietly, talking over the events of the day and after an hour or so we gave up on the idea of building the fire back up and decided to try and get some sleep. Sleep didn't come easily as our sore muscles complained from the unaccustomed activities of the day.

Eventually the rain relented and little ribbons of moonlight ventured out from behind a thin layer of clouds. Little creatures began to move about in the woods. As I drifted into that state that is not quite sleep and not quite wakefulness, those familiar night

sounds lulled me just to the crest where my next breath would let me drop over the edge into restful, muscle-mending sleep.

Suddenly, there was an awful clatter as our pots and pans crashed to the ground. In our haste to get out of the rain we had forgotten the first rule of the woods: "Any food left out is fair game." Since I was the guilty party, I figured I should be the one to get up and check things out.

I crawled out of the tent and took a few tentative steps. It could be just a raccoon or a martin but I knew that wasn't likely. I heard a soft "wuff" just to my left and switched on the flashlight. There, in the dark, not more than 12 feet away was a mature black bear. I sucked in my breath at the awesome sight! Black blending into black. She stood there calmly, looking magnificent with her dark coat glistening in the beam of the

flashlight. We stood there, face to face, sizing each other up — me in my rumpled sweats, shoestrings dangling and rainy-day hat-hair sticking out every which way, and there she was, ruler of the Northwoods, totally at home. No sore muscles there, just awesome, natural strength. She was in no hurry to leave, but by then I was ready to terminate this encounter, so I picked up a rock, drew myself up to my full 5 1/2 foot frame and politely but firmly informed our visitor that she would have to leave now.

Finally, resigned to the fact that there would be no free lunches in this camp, she ambled off toward the lake. We hung the S'mores ingredients up with the food pack where they should have been all along, picked up the pots and pans and then gave a good listen to determine the bear's intentions. A

few seconds later there was a loud splash and we all heard the sweet sounds of the bear swimming away. Finally we would get some rest.

After an appropriate interval of about 10 minutes, back in our sleeping bags, we roused enough to hear shouts from the campground on the next island. We chuckled and declared, "well, it sounds like our bear has moved on."

originally appeared in the North American Bear Center Newsletter Vol. 5, No. 1, Winter/Spring 2001



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Tid-Bits on Members of the Sommers Clan

The alumni association has an online member directory that is updated every few months. Check the online directory at www.holry.org for updated information

Melissa Bertelsen (1999-01) [bertelsen.melissa@epa.gov] is now living in Kansas City, KS working as an Environmental Protection Specialist.

Congratulations to **Dave Hyink** ('66-70, '84-) [dave.hyink@weyerhaeuser.com] on his receiving the Silver Antelope Award from the Western Region of the BSA.

Tom Widney (1969-71) [twidney@comcast.net] was "found" by **Dave Hyink** ('66-70) on www.freedomryder.com/Adventures/adventures.html. We welcome Tom as a life member.

John Proebstle (1958-60) saw the name of **Ron Potts** (1956) in the "Lost List" of "Reflections". John remembered a Ron Potts from council camp. John talked to Ron's wife and verified it was the same person. Ron received a Biology degree, spent time in the US Navy, and became a Dentist. Ron passed away in March, 2001 of colon cancer.

Pat Furey (1986-89) is now living in Elk Mound, WI.

Frank A. Slagboom (1998) International camp staff member sends his best regards. His new address is Pr. Irenelaan 20, 3958 XP Amerongen, The Netherlands. Phone: 00 31 343-460052, fax: 00 31 343-460052, mob/cell: 00 31 6-30745691. [slagboom48@zonnet.nl].



Seliga Book Wins Regional Award continued...

best selling book in Minnesota. A second printing of 2,500 was quickly ordered. In comparison, *The Wood & Canvas Canoe* book by Jerry Stelmok and Rollin Thurlow has averaged about 1,000 copies a year since 1987. Hopefully, with all the tourists coming through Ely and with publicity from the award, a third printing will be needed. Piragis Northwoods Company alone has sold about 500 copies so far. We congratulate Jerry and Deb on their award and hope for the continued success of their book.



*Jerry Stelmok (author),
Deborah Sussex (photographer),
and Joe Seliga (artist).*

Red Renner Memorial Work Week 2003

continued...

showers, etc. it is now used primarily by the staff as a lounge area and for food packing in another section. The staff can now sit back and enjoy the sunset or sunrise over Perch Lake during the otherwise hectic summer.

All of us had the pleasure of working with some of the current Canadian staff who were still on Base preparing for the coming season. Their fellow staff were down in Ely finishing the Staff Training coordinated by Mike Holdgrafer.

In addition to the Canadian staff, we had SAA members **Greg Richter** and **Patrick Cox** working on the project as well as future SAA member and future Charlie Guide Jonathan Moore – summer of 2008 – who was completing his Eagle Scout project.

Plan to attend Red Renner Memorial Work Week for 2004. It will be in Ely in 2004 during late August to coincide with the week preceding the SAA Reunion. Everyone is welcome and it is always good fun both during and after hours.

Postscript note to last year's Work Week attendees: the lounge in Ely looks great. The winter staff finished most of the remaining work. They located some furniture for the SAA to purchase for the lounge. It is now truly a top notch facility with room for all of the staff to enjoy.



Estate & Income Tax Benefits and Planning

by Patrick Cox

Did you know that you can donate property to the SAA and receive a current tax deduction – and still pass the property to your heirs if you like?

Did you know that you can leave a bequest to the SAA in your will that will reduce your estate taxes?

Both of the above are possible – and the benefits are enormous to both you and to the SAA.

While the different options available are too extensive to discuss in this short article, the results are that SAA members and those who support our efforts can provide current and future support to the SAA and its programs including the SAA Endowment and the SAA Scholarship Fund.

Please consider the following:

- Donate cash producing assets, or cash, stocks, bonds, or other negotiable or income producing securities to be held in one of the many types of Charitable Remainder Trusts.

All of these assets can later be sold or returned to you or your heirs in accordance with your wishes.

- Donate appreciated real estate, stock, artwork, or other assets that will be sold. You will have a much better overall tax minimizing result than if you sold the asset yourself and donated the proceeds.

- All proceeds received from asset sales can be used to fund current activities such as the SAA Scholarship Fund, the annual training program, or the Annual Returning Staff Incentives program.

The proceeds can even be used to permanently endow one of these programs or another specific area of service the SAA provides to the Sommers Canoe Base family as you may direct.

Benefits to You:

Receive a current tax deduction (for the fair market value of the asset).

The deduction can be carried over to future years if needed.

Deduct the full appraised value – no deduction for commissions or brokerage fees incurred in the sale if an asset is to be sold.

In most cases, no income tax is paid by you for a donated asset – even if it is worth a great deal more than you paid for it.

If you or someone you know plan to make a donation of this type, we can help by working with your financial and legal advisors to maximize your tax savings. Please contact SAA Vice President Patrick Cox by phone @ 281-497-4226, email @ Patrick.cox@coxcpa.net, or any SAA Director or Officer. The directors and officers knowledgeable in this area donate their time to make this work. As a result, there are no fees charged to the SAA for your donations.

All gifts can be made and received confidentially. Gifts can even be restricted to certain projects or for certain uses. However, please note that, due to state and federal law, all gifts carrying a restriction on the use of the gift proceeds must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to acceptance by the SAA.

Wood-Canvas Canoe Repair Workshop

Wood-Canvas Canoe Repair Workshop; September 21-October 3, 2003; at Camp Widjiwagan on Burntside Lake North of Ely. Learn the steps of canoe building. Work on six different canoes. The workshop instructors are Jeanne Bourquin and Peter Pestalozzi. Master canoe builder Joe Seliga will be at the workshop to meet the participants. Participants must attend at least two days. The cost is \$65/day, which includes room and board. The middle weekend is for relaxing or tripping, with gear available.

To Register call (651) 645-6605.

Annual Member Meeting

The annual meeting of the membership of the association is set for Sunday, September 14, 2003 at 1:00 P.M. This will be a family event in the South Picnic Shelter, Lake Elmo Park Preserve, 1515 Keats Avenue North, Lake Elmo, Minnesota. This is just east of St. Paul and close to I-94 and I-694.

Please browse over to our site (<http://www.holry.org>) for more information, or check out <http://www.co.washington.mn.us/parks/pklakeel.htm>.

A Winner!



The guy in the bowtie in the photo in the Spring, 2003, "Reflections" is **Jim Hood**. The photo would be in the 60's sometime, probably about 1966. He worked in the office for **Cliff Hanson** about then.

Looks like this a group of staff getting ready to do the mandatory swamping of canoes at the waterfront. I did the swamping just once in the 6 years ('63 to '68) I was on staff. After the first I year I took over the truck drivers job (I preferred the title "executive director of automotive vehicles") from **Gar Mulrooney**. Thereafter I found urgent need to pick up a load in Duluth or Virginia that day. That water is really, really cold

in Moose Lake in early June! I am shivering now as I write this.

Sure enjoy the contact I have via the newsletter. I have been a family doctor in Craig, Colorado, now for 28 years. My Grumman canoe gets few miles these days, but I tromp the mountains on snowshoes in the winter and with a loaded backpack often in the summer.

The last few years I have been taking "wilderness" trips as a doctor for a cruise line, exploring the world in 2-4 week shifts. In January I was off the coast of New Zealand and Australia. Last year I was on the only large cruise ship allowed to visit Antarctica. Next month I will do a trip to Alaska.

Allan Reishus

Miscellaneous

Directors Needed

Director nominations sought
The Sommers Alumni Association is seeking members who are willing to serve as directors for 2003-2006. Please send nomination to **Chuck Rose**, 103 1st Ave. N., Sartell, MN 56377, 320-252-2768, clrose@stcloudstate.edu.

Triple Crown

Recipient Names

Somehow we managed to miss getting the names of the two Triple Crown Award winners pictured in the last issue. So here they are again, photographed with **Allen Rench**, winners Ross D. Provow and Michael W. Derrick.



Get Involved!

If you are wondering how you can be more active within the Sommers Alumni Association, here is your chance. We would like to establish a Nation wide network of willing members to act as a Northern Tier Trek Resource.

The volunteer would make him or herself available to local Scout groups wishing to gain knowledge about canoeing at the Northern Tier Canoe Bases. In meetings you can pass on your wilderness experiences to the group and help better prepare them for what lies ahead. In doing so you enable them to have a more enjoyable Trekking adventure. Plus, these groups can meet the people that established the name of Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base.

Please take the time and fill out this form, clip it out, and mail it to:

Sommers Alumni Association, Inc.
PO Box 428
Ely, Minnesota, 55731-0428

Or email the information to NTTResource@charter.net

I am interested in participating as a Northern Tier Trek Resource

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

David Hyink – Silver Antelope Recipient *continued...*



young minds and takes great pride in listening to the students explain their projects. He has served on the Site Councils at both Mt. View Elementary School and Puyallup High School, and is a recipient of the District's "Celebration of Success" award. He is a graduate of Class XIII and an active supporter of the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation's Leadership Program. Professionally, Dr. Hyink has been employed as a scientist with Weyerhaeuser Company since

1980. In addition, he holds the rank of Affiliate Full Professor at both the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington and the School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Idaho, where he serves on graduate student research and thesis committees. He also serves as a member of the President's Research Advisory Council at Auburn University (AL). He and his wife Stephanie are the parents of a son, **Jonathan**, also an Eagle Scout, and a senior at Auburn University.

members in the BSA's wilderness canoeing and winter camping programs. Beyond Scouting, Dr. Hyink is proactive in the field of education — particularly as it applies to encouraging the study of math and science. His strong interest in effective stewardship of our natural resources is reflected in his efforts with close professional colleagues to develop and personally deliver day-long field trips on forest management; specifically designed for classroom teachers through the local school District's Community Connections Program. Through his continued involvement in the Puyallup School District's Science Fair, he has been instrumental in motivating



Dave and his family (Jon, Steff and Dave) in Philadelphia at the National BSA Meeting.

Tree Thanks!

Once again through the dedication of **Jim Barrot** we were able to continue the reforestation of the Base. Two years ago when the project began we planted a mixture of white pine, red pine and spruce totaling 5000 trees. We have seen about a 50% mortality rate partly due to the local deer, rabbit and other wildlife populations. This May 17 Jim secured an additional 1000 white pine plus the volunteers to help put them in the ground. This year's crew consisted of alumni, friends and relatives:

Roy Cerny, Mark McCoy, Jed Mangnuson, Adam Magnuson, Chris Clay, Jamie Rench, Quentin Rench, Knute Nisswandt and his trusty planting tool "HO-DAD". A special thanks goes out to **Dorris Kolodji** who acquired our planting spuds from the Hibbing area DNR and **Cory Kolodji** who made the late night delivery rendezvous with the planter at the Virginia MN Hardies to deliver the tools. We spent the morning planting and by mid afternoon Saturday we were finished. There was still enough daylight to get in some fishing with **Butch Diesslin** on Fall Lake. Our sincere appreciation goes out to all our volunteers and supporters. Future canoeists of the Northern Tier and all who pass by the Base will certainly notice your efforts.



Personal Information Update

Addresses are changing, area codes keep changing, e-mail addresses keep changing.

Please send any personal information changes that you would like to share with the SAA and other

alumni members to: **Sommers Alumni Association**
PO Box 428
Ely, MN 55731-0428

or e-mail the changes to:
Butch Diesslin
[butnlucy@cpinternet.com]

Association members can check SAA's current directory information at **www.holry.org**

Name: _____ Years at No. Tier: _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

_____ Work Phone: _____

_____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Other: _____

Occupation/Employer: _____

Scouter? _____ Position(s) _____ Scout Council: _____

Additional Information To Share: _____

Dorothy's Journal

by Linda Gass

Tate's Compass Co.

There was once a couple named Nancy and Mike Tate, and it was their life's dream to have a compass company. They finally saved enough money and started the Tate's Compass Company.

Luck was with them, for the first contract they acquired was to manufacture 750,000 compasses for the Boy Scouts.

Nancy and Mike worked feverishly day and night to meet their deadline, and finished just before the Boy Scout Jamboree was to begin.

On the day of the Boy Scout Wilderness hike, each boy scout was given a Tate's Compass to help them find their way.

Unfortunately, it was discovered a little too late that every single compass was made with the colored point of the needle facing the wrong way, so when one was facing North, the needle pointed to the South.

Needless to say, all of the boy scouts got lost and it was the biggest fiasco known in Boy Scout history. The Tate's compass company went out of business, but from this experience came the familiar adage:

"He who has a Tate's is lost."
(Say it out loud).

We all have special memories that make us smile and perhaps wish we were in that particular moment again. Those of you who love the wilderness probably have many such memories. This column is a special treat because for the first time publicly, Dorothy Molter's memories of one of her first trips to northeastern Minnesota are going to be shared with you. Dorothy wrote a journal of her 1931 trip to the Isle of Pines on Knife Lake. This was her second trip and she records many interesting facts about how her days were spent and what she saw. The following excerpts are from that journal.

"The northern lights were certainly pretty. They were different every night. They were white in color – except the last night we saw them, they were tinted pale green and pink. They usually form an arc in the sky to the north and the rays of light travel from west to east and visa versa. They beam way out across the sky and take on various forms and motion. One night they appeared to form separate descriptions and some rays seemed to form a long beaded lampshade for the stars. Still other rays clung to the arc and

formed the appearance of curtains hanging over the ridges. No matter what form they took on, they were always pretty...

There are no people living up there for 40 miles – the closest. Occasionally we see a few campers but they usually camp for the night and travel on the following day. There are very pretty campsites on the islands. Some campers travel long after dark.

No hunting is allowed, but there is plenty of game. The Canadian fishing license is \$10.00; the Minn. license is \$3.00. We prefer to fish in Minn.

There are oodles of blueberries on both the islands and mainland. There are also wild raspberries and gooseberries.

The depth of the lakes is very uncertain. You can go out for a few feet where the lake seems to be only five or ten feet deep and all of a sudden it would drop down to maybe forty or sixty feet. In some places I understand that the lake is 500 feet deep. The water is very clear and you can see the bottom for about ten feet down. It certainly was good drinking water...

We fished for a couple of hours and between Geenans, the rangers, and our party we got 18 fish.

I caught one 3-pound walleye and one 2-inch perch. Watta catch! Ha Ha.

We finally decided to come in to supper so we had fish, beans, biscuits, and other camp luxuries including lemon cream pie. The two rangers ate supper with us.

After supper we went fishing again. Bob caught one walleye. I caught two, Uncle Bill caught two, and Geenans caught four. Then it was too dark to fish so back to the cabin we went. I wrote letters to John, Ruth and bunch, and to grandma. Geenans are getting ready to go out for home tomorrow so dad, Mother, and Uncle Bill went over there tonight. There is just Bob and I at the cabin now so I guess we will play Rummy to pass the time away. This has been a good day. I sure love this country."

I hope this brings back smiles, warm feelings, and wonderful memories of past wilderness experiences for you. Hope to see you out in the woods this summer. If you are in Ely, stop by and visit the Dorothy Molter Museum and relive a bit of history.

Linda Gass is Executive Director of the Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation.

"Never get between a mother and her cubs."

"A bear can take your head off with a single swipe."

"Not all bears are Yogi and Gentle Ben."

"A bear gives no warning before it attacks."

"Don't go into the woods. There are bears in there."

These are the warnings I grew up with. Everything I read and heard portrayed wild bears as brooding, hungry, and short-tempered. Books and magazines told and retold of killings, noting little distinction between black bears and grizzlies. I discovered from my childhood pets (snapping turtles, snakes, etc.) that wildlife danger is often exaggerated, but I had no experience to help me understand bears. My experience with bears began 30 years ago, in 1967, when I started working with black bears as a student aide for the Michigan Department of

day, when my boss told me that a treed bear had descended and run right past him, I couldn't imagine a threatened bear coming that close without attacking. I knew there had been bear incidents in national parks, I knew people had even been killed, and I was apprehensive.

My apprehension soon turned into fascination. I moved to Minnesota in 1968 to begin a black bear study that became my life work. I studied bears as a profession and photographed them in my off time. Part of the fascination was the power of the bear. Bears charged or lunged at me. Bears I thought were drugged in dens sometimes turned out to be inhospitable. Bears in culvert traps slapped at the peepholes when I looked in. I thought I was having than I had imagined possible. At first the bears were as apprehensive

Bad Bears?

of me as I initially had been of them. They expressed their discomfort with the usual lunges and bluff-threats that black bears do under those situations. I still jumped back when bears bluffed particularly convincingly at close range. Eventually, we both developed a comfort and trust that allowed the bears to go about their peaceful activities and me to expand my attention beyond the bears themselves. Soon our research team was walking through the woods, day or night, watching undisturbed bears forage, play, nap, and mate just a few feet away for 24 hours at a time.

The information is helping forest managers preserve the best bear habitat and is helping campers deal more knowledgeably with bears. Other researchers are adopting this technique in other

study areas. Some of the results are embodied in the bear exhibit that was created by the Science Museum of Minnesota which we hope to include as part of the North American Bear Center.

by Lynn L. Rogers, PhD, provided to www.bear.org by the Wildlife Research Institute



Hol-ry from Kuwait

Hol-ry from Kuwait. After many years in the Alabama National Guard, my unit got the nod for activation. We're an intermediate aircraft repair company with the mission to process Blackhawks and Chinook through phase maintenance. I'm, however, not as fortunate as I once was, to pilot choppers due to a medical grounding a few years back. We've been in this country since 17 April and after a few moves between camps in Kuwait we're now esconced in the realm of the REMF's at Camp Doha. Life is good here except for the HEAT. Only 128 degrees F on the ramp today. Military life is OK but after 37 years in service, mostly in the Guard, I'm ready to hang it up and

start receiving that long awaited retirement paycheck next year. I thought it would be splendid to visit Iraq and was initially disappointed that we were blocked from entering the war via Turkey. Now that the ankle biters are having their way with our troops I'm thankful to be in a secure place.

Kuwait is an awfully dry and dusty place. The natives will even vacate their lovely land to wait out the summer months in other lands that offer more pleasant weather. These people have a wonderful highway system, a refinement of the autobahn and our interstate system without any space constraints at interchanges. Even with good roads, their driving

habits are unique to the Middle East and are influenced by exposure to Europeans. CRAZY.

I've greatly missed being in the North Woods and hope to make another trip before too long. If **Butch Diesslin** and others from the early 60's can hang in there, then maybe I'll dip my paddle from Agnes to Kawnipi again or maybe a short trip from Moose to Grand Portage again. Or how about shooting Lower Basswood Falls? To all of the Charlie Guides and Staff from past years to present, I hope to see you soon.

Bob (Roadrunner) Rench (62-65)



Five Signs

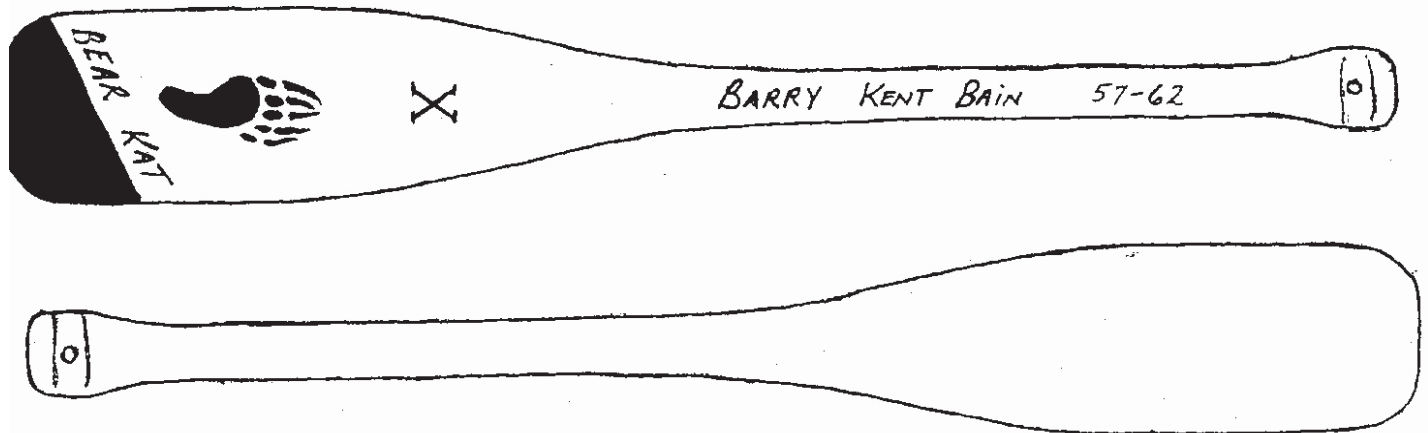
Top five signs you may have gotten the wrong guide:

5. Your guide blows into big sea shell horn to find moose and a bunch of Vikings show up instead.
4. Your guide is completely outfitted with "Barney" camping equipment.
3. As you paddle up on a loon, your guide whispers in an Elmer Fudd voice, "Be vehhwey vehhwey quiet."
2. He calls trees by their first names.

And the number one sign you may have gotten the wrong hunting guide:

1. He is prone to scream, "Run, Boo-boo, RUN!" when a bear comes into camp late at night.

Miniature Paddle Brands



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Red Tip: Yes No Region 10x: Yes No

Years Guided ____ to ____

Checks payable to **Sommers Alumni Association**
 Mail to: The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association
 PO Box 428
 Ely, Mn 55731

Remember gazing at the Paddle display case and seeing all of those paddle designs of those bygone days and imagining the faces that went with them? Well here is your chance to leave your mark once again at the Canoe Base and have someone ponder your logo. With the addition of a second paddle display cabinet (crafted by Red Renner) in the Lodge there is plenty of room to add your brand to the growing collection.

For \$25 **you can have your very own paddle brand** placed on a miniature paddle and put on display. A full size sample is provided above as a template to place your artwork. Sketch your logo on the sample or send in a picture of your artwork and let us do the rest.

When completed your design name and years you served at the base will appear on the paddle to share with a whole new generation of Scouts and Guides. If you didn't have a paddle brand, but had a special canoe name or logo, put it on the paddle too. OKPIK staff — we have room for miniature skis or snow shoes too. Additional instructions, please staple them to the order form.



SAA 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.

All cards are printed using high 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. These are distinctive and very

handsome greeting cards. The cards come 25 per package, including envelopes. 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 _____
___ Special , 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 2003		_____

Buy 1 Get 1 Free
Sale shipping = \$3.⁰⁰

Total _____

**BUY ONE
 GET ONE
 FREE**

SAA Holiday Card Sale
 PO Box 428
 Ely, MN 55731-0428

THE 'PUT DOWN'

by Dr. Kay H. Ingebrihtsen 1995

There was once a young guide,
 it was not so long ago,
 I have almost forgotten
 just when,
 Suffice it to say,
 it was so long ago,
 You probably weren't even
 born then!

Well, it happened the day,
 that the young guide went forth,
 On his first trip
 into the unknown,
 A bear, shot in camp,
 would provide some fine steaks,
 The first meal on a trip
 sets the tone!

Later that nitght
 when the crew was asleep,
 The young guide did
 venture out late,
 Across through the woods
 to the store on the point,
 He would brag about the
 bear steaks they ate!

It was then the young guide,
 after having a drink,
 Told the storekeeper
 about eating the bear,
 The storekeeper snorted,
 he laughed, and he said,
 "Only white men and
 other bear eat bear!"

He was one of the guides
 at the Sommers Base,
 East from Ely and
 up from Moose Lake,
 He was weaned on the trail
 and he thought that he knew
 Enough — to not
 make a mistake.

We set out for Prairie,
 the portage, that is,
 And we set up our tents
 on the hill,
 We ate bear steaks, galore,
 far into the night,
 We gorged until we
 had our fill!

It was there the young guide
 sauntered up to the bar,
 Over which hung an
 ancient wasp comb,
 The purpose of this
 reminds one and all,
 "That getting stung here
 is the norm!"

'mid laughter and chiding,
 the young guide did leave,
 To go back to his
 crew on the hill,
 He would never forget
 the derision he felt,
 And to this day,
 he remembers it still!



*A photo taken of a recent Charlie Guide mini-reunion held in Seattle. L-R: **Craig Pendergraft**, **Pete Vial**, **John Gallant**, **Chris Wolfe**, **Dave (the Pleasant Pheasant) Hyink** and **Mike (the Mad Hatter) Loeffler**.
A good time was had by all!*

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