WE WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE
THIS LOG TO OUR GUIDE
GORDON LOMMEN

AND ALL OF THE OTHER GUIDES
AT THE REGION 10 CHARLES L.
SOMMERS WILDERNESS CANCE
BASE AT ELY, MINNESOTA.

Front row, left to right. Kerry Strahm Paul Veerkamp

Paul Veerkamp Joe Compton Chipper Chipas

Middle rew: Brian Hollis

David Petersen Greg Meserve David Doppo Jon Oallen

Back Row: Ed Friesen

Crville Strahm

Gordon Lommen - Our Guide

Eric Friesen Howard Compton

, 

### CREW MEMBERS

Name	<u>Nickname</u>	Main duties
Joe Compton	Copper Joe	Crew Chief
Eric Friesen	Cookie	Head Cook
Brian Hollis	Thumper	Chaplain
Jon Callen	Self	Spokesman
Greg Meserve	Slow Motion	Quartermaster
David Dopps	Fugitive	
David Peterson	The Swamper	
Chipper Chipas	Old Snot Foot	
Kerry Strahm	Sore Toe, Crip	Lcg Keeper
Mr. Howard Compton	Chief	Post Advisor
Mr. Orville Strahm	Hunter	Associate Advisor
Mr. Ed Friesen	Sure Foot	
Paul Veerkamp	Moocher	

Sponsored by POST 522

Hillside Christian Church
August 2 - 15, 1966

August 2 - 3

Post 522 left Hillside Christian Church Tuesday, August 2, at 6:00 P. M. From there we went to the bus station and left on the Continental bus at 7:05 P.M. We arrived in Kansas City on schedule. We were to change buses to the Jefferson Lines, but although we were on schedule the other bus was late and when it finally came, it was too full so we waited for another bus. This bus was nice, equipped with an 80 ton air conditioner and all tons working we nearly froze. Our bus driver knew we were 50 minutes late so he made up the time by almost flying. So we were flying and freezing our way to Des Moines. Iowa where we arrived at 5:05 A.M. When we steped out of our icebox the air felt very warm. We talked to the lady inside at the snack bar and she said it was about 50° outside. Well we hopped back in our special icebox and moved on for Mason City, Iowa, arriving there about 7:15 A.M. for a 30 minute stop to eat breakfast. The waiters took 25 minutes for orders. We gulped down our breakfast but still we were five minutes late for the bus. The driver was mad. We moved on and arrived in Albert Les. Minn at 9:30 A.M. The bus driver got tired of us so we changed buses. Our Post came into Minneapolis, Minn at 12:00 noon. We had small, puny hamburgers with huge prices (50¢). They were so small that you could loose them in a cavity in your tooth, Who needed to brush his teeth after that meal! We left that place around 1:25 P.M. Arrived in Duluth at 5:35 P.M.

Some of us had our first look at Lake Superior. There we saw some ships in the harbor. Our group changed buses to the Northern Bus Company. Now we were on a whistle stop. Everytime one of us started to sleep, the bus would come to a screeching stop to let someone off.

Naturally it woke us up. Finall we reached Ely, Minn where we were to stop overnight in a hotel. Our hotel which was supposed to be the Wheeler Hotel turned out to be the Forest Hotel. We checked into our rooms. After that we went to eat. Some of us went to Elna's Bar and Steak House. (The menu and a post card of the place is in the back.) The others went to A & W Root Beer stand.

Kerry lost his shoe in the hotel and had a long search but finally found it under his duffle bag. Everybody had a good sleep that night.

August 4 - Thursday

Our fearless crew was picked up at Ely by the camp's
Carry-All and pick up which started a wild 22 mile ride
to the Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base. We were met at the
entrance and the advisors were taken to headquarters to
meet the camp director Mr. Clifford Hanson, and were
assigned a guide who would be traveling with us. His
name was Gordon Lommen. That night we were to sleep in
tents that had floors and mattresses. Tonight we swamped
our canoes and received our paddles. We also planned our
route. The dinner bell rang about 6:30. After dinner we
had our campfire. The camp director, Clifford Hanson, gave
us an outline on what we should expect to see and do and told
us that we would travel over portages little changed from

the day when they were used by the voyagers of centuries past. Most of us turned in early???? Tomorrow was to be a big day. We were to finish our outfitting by packing our food and obtaining our other equipment for the voyage. August 5 - Friday

This morning came pretty early, but we woke up very quickly when we put our feet into those cold wet boots. After breakfast we continued our outfitting which we started the day before. Our cook, Eric, selected our menu. Our crew weighed and sacked our food supply and packed it in food packs. We were informed by our guide (Gordy) that we were packing all food supply that would be needed by the crew for the full eight days. If our cook miscalculated there would be no source of re-supply. We would then have the thrill of testing our survival skills. Our personal gear was packed in a Duluth Pack, with three boys to a pack which was crowded. The canoes were assigned to us and the life jackets were packed and tied in under the seats of the canoes. The kettle pack, which consisted of an axe, saw, shovel, trail kit, reflector oven, chef kit and a dining fly along with three tents was assigned to us. We finally got our cances in the water around 11:30. Each canoe had a map and compass. Jon Callen, our first navigator, was going to lead us through Moose Lake, New Found Lake, Sucker Lake and up to Prairie Portage. (Hopefully!) We stopped for lunch about 1/2 hour after departure from base camp. Lunch consisted of the following: salami and cheese, peanut butter and jem sendwiches, and we mean jem sandwiches, mainly two pieces of bread jammed together.

For the drink we had "Funny Face Mix" and lake water mixed with a canoe paddle. After lunch we had gone a short way when - WOW! we saw girls! But we had to keep on moving.

Darn! We moved through New Found Lake and through Sucker Lake headed toward the Canadian customs near Prairie Portage.

When we finally got there, our advisors and guide went to check up through Canadian customs and purchase our fishing licenses. After that we made camp, Also, fordon showed up how to wash our ahads, build our fire, cook our food, put up our tents and dig a latreen. He told us to go to bed early because we would get an early start in the morning and would need our rest. Have you ever tried to sleep with 5 people in a 3 man tent?

August 6 - Saturday

We all got a fairly good night's sleep although it rained during the night - a typical Kansas thunder storm. This morning some of us went fishing while the others were making breakfast. Kerry and Brian caught the first two fish.

Although they weren't very big, according to Kerry and Brain they were fun to catch. Paul, Copper Joe and Chipper were out in a canoe fishing. Paul lost a big one, so they say. they said it was a rood sized Northern. Well, we finally broke camp and moved on. This day we were to move to Birch Lake through our first portage and half way up Carp Lake wher we were to camp at second campsite. At the portage we learned how to handle the canoes properly. We found new muscles in our arms and legs. We also found some more girls Waw (Again). David Dopps was the first to

learn about the slippery rocks and fell with his canoe.

While the girls were watching. Here we left the United

States Superior National Forest and entered the Canadian

Quetico Provincial Park area. We did not catch any fish

at the second campsite but we did get a good night's sleep.

August 7 - Sunday

There has been a steady drizzle falling all night long. This morning is no exception. There is a cold strong North wind and it is getting colder. We debate whether to continue on or wait until later in the day, to see if the wind will go down. We decide to go on and hold our Church service later in the evening. We leave Carp Lake and head for our first portage, into Sheridan. We were told that our packs would get lighter each day. We find this is not so, the personal packs are wet and heavier, the food packs are somewhat lighter but we are now carrying sore toe Kerry Strahm, we have to make two trips in order to get over the portages. We move through Sheridan across the next portage into That Man Lake. We have no way of determining the time, since all watches were left at base camp and the Sun refuses to show itself. We decide, due to the winds and the rough paddling we will stop in That Man Lake. After supper we sing some songs and then we are led in our Worship service by our appointed Chaplain Brian Hollis. Gordon taught us a new song for our Worship service. We are cold and wet, we go to bed early hoping tomorrow the sun will be shinning.

August 8 - Monday

It rained all night and is still raining this morning. After

breakfast we break camp and move on. We are still fighting a head wind and the going is slow. We move out of That Man into No Man Lake, here we decide it must be Noon and eat our daily ration of Holrye, salomi and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Almost tasted the salomi today but the bread sure tastes good. We make camp in This Man Lake at a real nice compsite. We put up the diming fly as it is still raining. Chief caught himself a real small lake trout. Gordon showed the crew how to file? a fish. Cookie fried the fish and divided it into 14 pieces that were just about as big as the hamburgers we had in Minneapolis. Chief caught a Northern and he had to filet this one himself. We are beginning to doubt our guide, he had assured us that it seldom rained for more than 3 days, and this was the third straight day. Maybe not tomorrow we tell ourselves and go to bed to warm up.

#### August 9 - Tuesday

The clouds appear to be a little lighter, but it is still raining. Today we moved over 4 portages into Bell Lake. Before reaching Bell Lake we were side tracked, GIRLS:

We met them on a 22 yard portage, our shortest of the trip, that is in distance, but it turned but to be our longest in time. They had an injured girl, so being good Scouts, we offered them our help. The girl had slipped on some snot rocks with a cance on her back, and had hit her knee on a rock. Their leader did not know if it was broken or not so she and another girl had traveled up to the Rangers wabin at Silver Falls the day before. Since no planes could get to the injured girl, the leader decided to try

and move the girl to the Ranger station at Prairie Portage. It was decided that the crew would move on to Bell Lake and then Gordon, Joe, Eric and Jon would go back and help the girls to Other Man Leke. Being real careful, we placed the injured girl into the canoe and shoved off for the first portage. We thought luging Kerry across portages was bad, boy he was easy. But we finally made it across the portages and started down Other Man. After going some way, who should we meet but a Doctor. He looked at the leg and said that the could and should walk on it. All that carrying for nchhing? We had a short Council with Gordon and decided to move on with the girls until they found a campsite. We found one, but still we didn: t want to leave (wonder why). We helped them pitch their tents, by now it was only about 1 hour until dark. Knowing this the girls asked if we wanted to spend the night. Oh Boy! we say yes- But our guide says NO and we sadly push off and head back to our crew. Our last portage was in total darkness, finally we pulled into camp and found that our dear crew had left us some food, David Dopps had substituted for Cookie this evening and had done a real bang up job. The clouds have started to break up and we can see a few stars overhead. No rain tonight and we sleep good, rocks, roots and all.

August 10- Wednesday

It is cloudy this morning and is throating rain, we are getting used to wearing our wet clothing and rain coats. We decide to go to Blackstone Loke, they say the fishing is real good. It is a long portage but the Sun is trying to shine through the clouds. Blackstone Lake is a beautiful lake with lots of Islands. We find a campsite and lay out our gear to dry, the Sun is now shinning. Chief catches a Northern on his first cast from the bank, everybodys fishing fever is going up. We go out in the Canoes and try trolling, no luck. For lunch we have Blueberry Pancakes, the blueberrys were picked on Carp Portage, fried fish. Dave Dopps picked up Kerry's rod and reel and cat out in the lake and assight a 6 pound Northern. Copper Joe landed it on 6 pound from line. Repps were the most successful lure used. It appeared that David Petersen was along on the trip for the ride only, he simply could not catch a fish. We decide to get up sarly tomorrow and rather than back track to Bell Lake we will portage across country to Joliet.

Tonight we saw a beautiful sunset.

#### August 11 - Thursday

This morning there was a lot of fog. We have boiled fish for breakfast. We toured the Northern shore line of Blackstone trying to find a portage trail leading North. We finally locate an old trail. Here we find lakes that no one has bothered to name. We move through swamps, over hills and then beaver ponds. The small is old and with many blaze marks. Copper Jce is leading the way, sure enough we loose the trail. Finally the report comes back that the trail is located. The mosquitoes in the woods are terrific. We move through a Meaver lake filled with caltails and moss, then down a hall to a floating island of pete moss and leichen at the lower end of Joliet. Copper Joe and Gordon marked the trail out on the island. Keep on the log and watch your

step was their only comments. David Dopps and Paul Veerkamp soon found out. We heard a plaintive cry and low and behold there stood Veerkamp with one leg on shore and the other up to his hip in water with a cance balanced on top. Dave stepped up to help and sunk in to his waist, after two attempts to rise with the canoe he simply tossed it to one side. We stopped in Joliet to cook our evening meal with intentions of going on to Wet Lake. We find an old camp site that had not been used for quite a while, as the firewood left by previous campers was rotted and bleached out. While supper is cooking Gordon and Greg go fishing. Greg catches a Northern and proceeds to try to reast it in the coals. However, we are ready to move on before the fish is done so they sink it in the lake as we go across. Right opposite where we cooked our supper we find another camp site and decide that we will camp for the night, since the sun is sinking rapidly. We wash clothes and go swimming. We heat water and Sore Toe Kerry soaks his foot, Sore Toe needs medical attention. Hunter sleeps in a hole and Ed has a rock for a foot warmer.

August 12 - Friday

This morning we were to get an early start, only two days left and we are just now reaching our northern foremost point, but we have French Toast for breakfast and we get our usual late start. It is getting cloudy and the wind is now out of the Southwest. Down Wet Lake, portage into lake with no name, portage into

McEwen down McEwen creek, filled with beaver dams into Glacier. We cut across the corner of Glacier into Turn Lake then Edge Lake. Here David Peterson trys to swim with a canoe on his shoulders. Not once but twice, although we had told him it could not be done, On to Rod Lake and our guide suggests that we stop and make camp. We have a vote and it is decided to move on to Fauquier before stopping for the night. However, before we leave Rod Lake Eric looses his glasses over the side of the canoe in deep water. Maybe some Northern will now have better eye sight. Everyone is getting tired. Ed is paddling with his head on his knees. It has been a long day, some light showers but it is clear this evening. Gordon washes his clothes and has to dry them by the fire. This is a nice campsite. While Veerkamp and Dopps are preparing the lunch for the next day the squirrels move in to camp and beg for crumbs. They sure were cute little fellows. Here we had Pea Stew with carrots for supper. Everything that was left over was cooked since tomorrow is our last day on the voyage,

#### August 13 - Saturday

This morning we had breakfast early and I mean early!!

Our breakfast consisted of warmed over rice pudding,

beef boullion, and warmed over potatoes with spam. All

had been cooked the night before. When we broke camp

the weather looked clear but it soon clouded up and

started to rain. We portage into Louisa Lake, water

very rough and white caps running. This is rough going

and the wind was blowing out of the South. On the portage past Louisa Falls, which were beautiful, we nearly lost Chipper, old snot foot hit it again and on a part of the trail that wasn't very wide and not far from the falls. On the portages it seems he spent almost as much time getting up as he did walk-On the portage between Meadows Lake and Sunday Lake we met the Wichita East Heights Methodist Youth Group with the Reverend Molstrom. We ate lunch in the canoes and moved on into Lake Sunday, across North Portage. This was the only time we ever saw Gordie loose his footing. We entered Bayley Bay and it continues to rain with strong Southerly winds. Every member of the crew is tiring but we still have a long way to go. We arrived at Prairie Portage at 1:30 where we crossed and entered waters that were familiar -Sucker Lake. New Found Lake. Moose Lake and then back to the Wilderness Canoe Base at 4:30. We were several hours late getting back into camp and they were ready to send out a search party to look for us, or so they told us. We had traveled about 22 miles this day plus 9 portages. Kerry was taken to Ely Hospital to have his toe checked. The rest of the crew cleaned the canoes, checked and returned all equipment back to stores. All crew members except Kerry got their steam bath which was called a Sauna. The dinner bell rang at 5:30 and we had cur first meal not cooked from de-hydrated foods in 8 days. Kerry was returned from the Hospital, seems his toe is not any worse and he can

make the trip home with the rest of the crew. The camp furnished him a pair of crutches. At 7:30 we had a campfire where each crew had a spokesman to tell of its experiences on the voyage, Jon Callan (Self) was Crow 8043 spokesman and his version of our experiences sure brought the campfire alive. We turned in at tent city for the night, no one had to tell us to go to bed.

August 14 - Sunday

We left after an early breakfast for Home. The Camp Carmy-All and pick up took us back to Ely, Minn where we boarded the bus at 8:10 AM. We traveled the same route back home. On the way home we stopped in Minneapolis and went to a steak house for a really good meal. Some of the fellows went to see the movie The Russians are Comming. We arrived home at 12:30 P.M. on August 15th. A happy crew, but just a little tired.

Your Log Keeper

Kerry Strahm

#### Voyage Song

O the place where I worship, in the wide open spaces Built by the hands of the Lord.

Where the trees of the forest are like pipes of an organ and the wind plays an amen sords

O the stars are like candles and they light up the mountain.

mountains are alters of God.

O' the place where I worship in the wide open spaces built by the hand of the Lord.

There's a carpet of green and a sky blue roof above you'r welcome there alone or with the one you love In your heart take a good look

If you follow the good book

you're sure to find your reward.

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