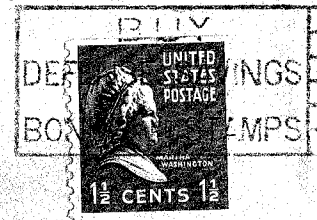


Push Off for
ADVENTURE...



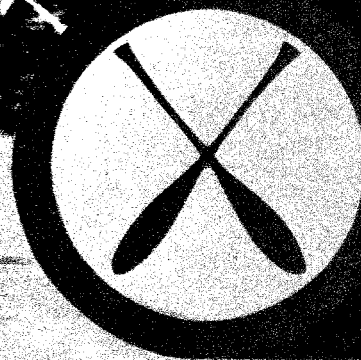
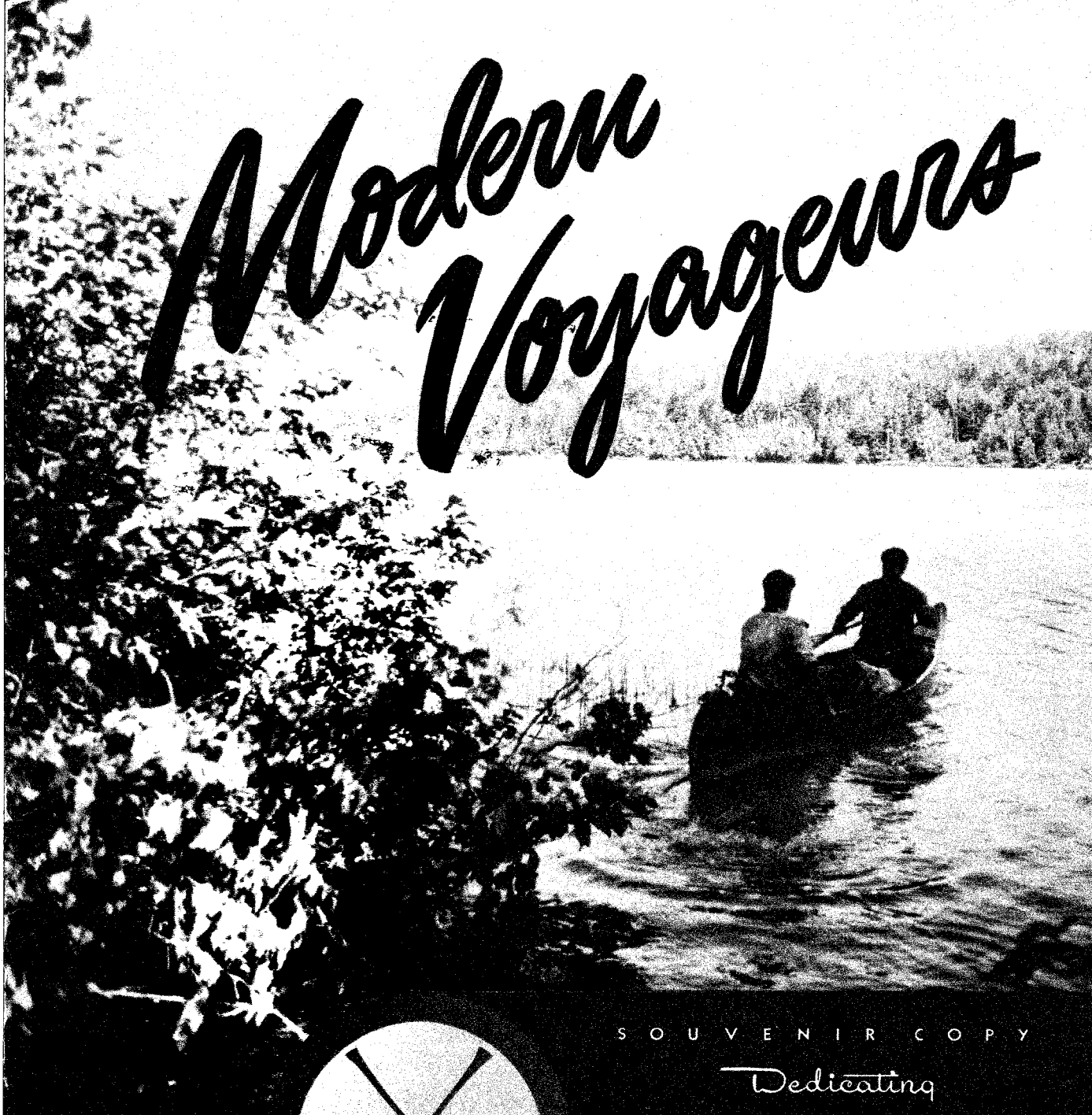
THE
**CHARLES L. SOMMERS
WILDERNESS
CANOE BASE**

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
REGION TEN OFFICE
1112 Minnesota Building
ST. PAUL :: MINNESOTA



Dr. E. H. Rynearson,
Rochester, Minn.

Modern Voyageurs



S O U V E N I R C O P Y

Dedicating

CAMP CHARLES L. SOMMERS

WILDERNESS CANOE BASE CAMP

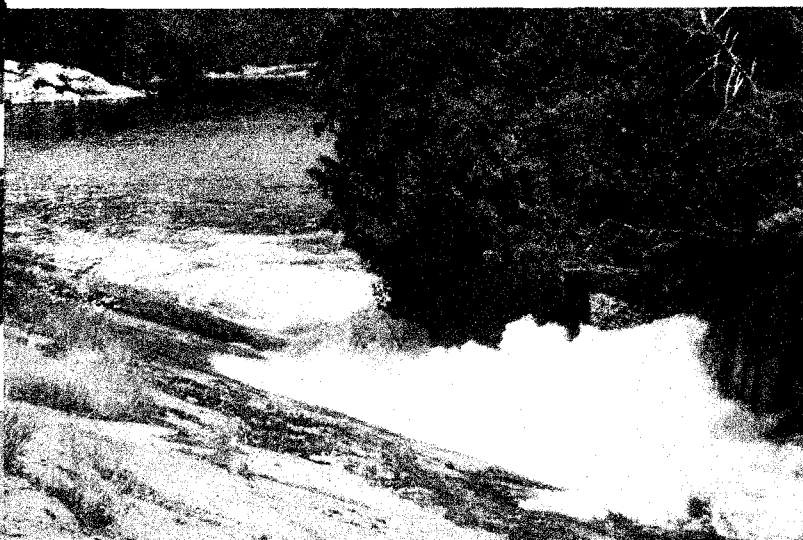
SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST

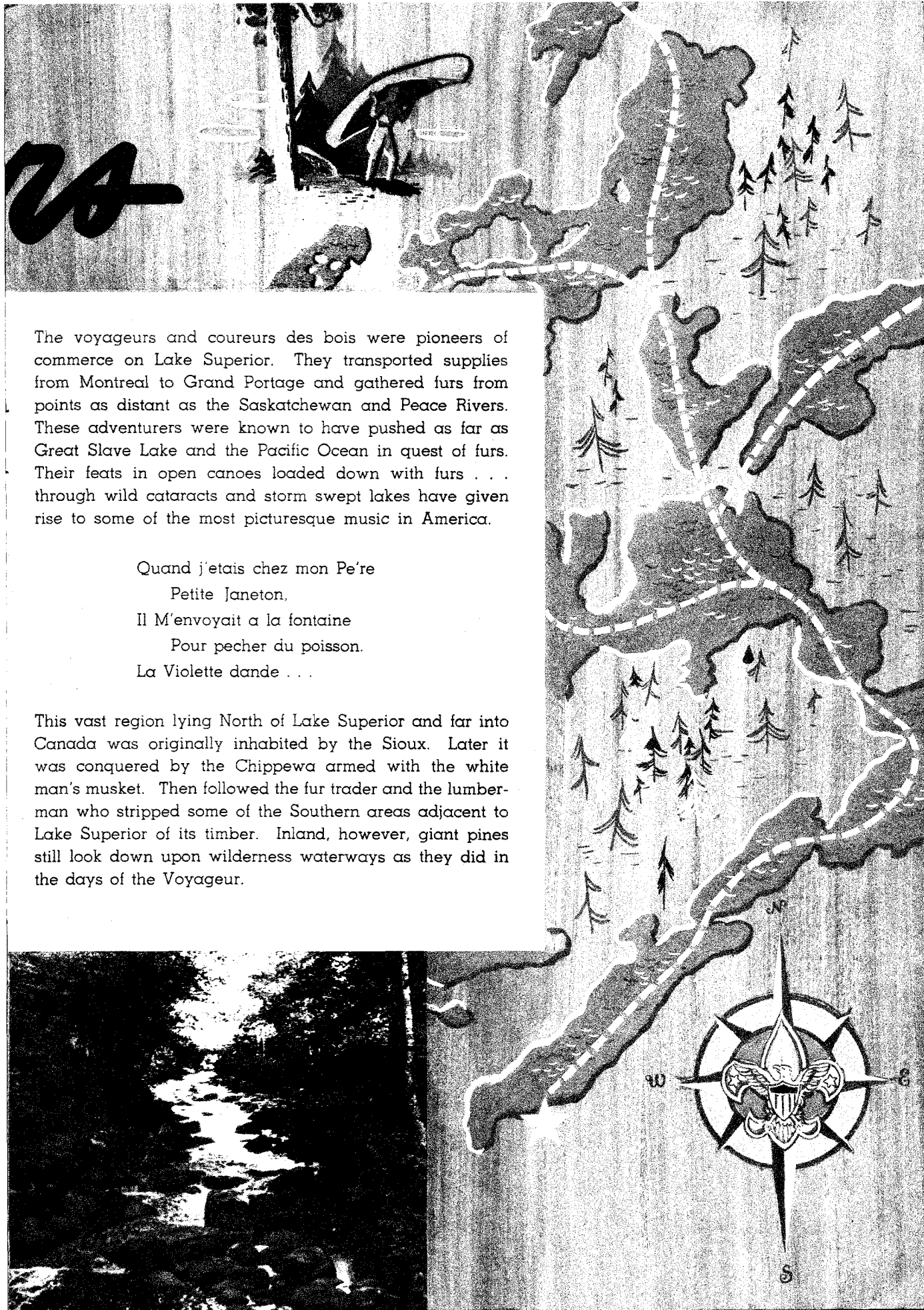
Voyagers

Our country would not have her present boundaries were it not for courageous men who laughed at dangers and scorned hardships. The Pilgrims braved the storms of the Atlantic and starvation on our shores that they might found a new nation. Daniel Boone and others of "long rifle" fame pushed into Kentucky and Ohio and helped to settle these fertile regions. And shortly after this, as history is written, the Jesuit Fathers journeyed westward into Lake Superior and came upon a wilderness paradise.

After the missionaries came the bois-brules or Voyageurs, drawn to this wilderness by the abundance of beaver, otter, and other fur-bearing animals. They came in long canoes, these voyageurs, singing as they guided their loaded crafts down boiling rapids . . . and laughing, still, when forced to take to the portage trails shouldering two 90 pound fur packs per man.

Here in those early days high adventure did not stalk . . . it pounced. Fierce and bloody battles between Hudson's Bay Company and Northwest Company men flared openly along the wilderness waterways. Later the XY Company, organized by men excluded by the Northwest Company carried on the fight. So intense did this warfare become that the British Parliament was forced to take a hand on March 26, 1821.

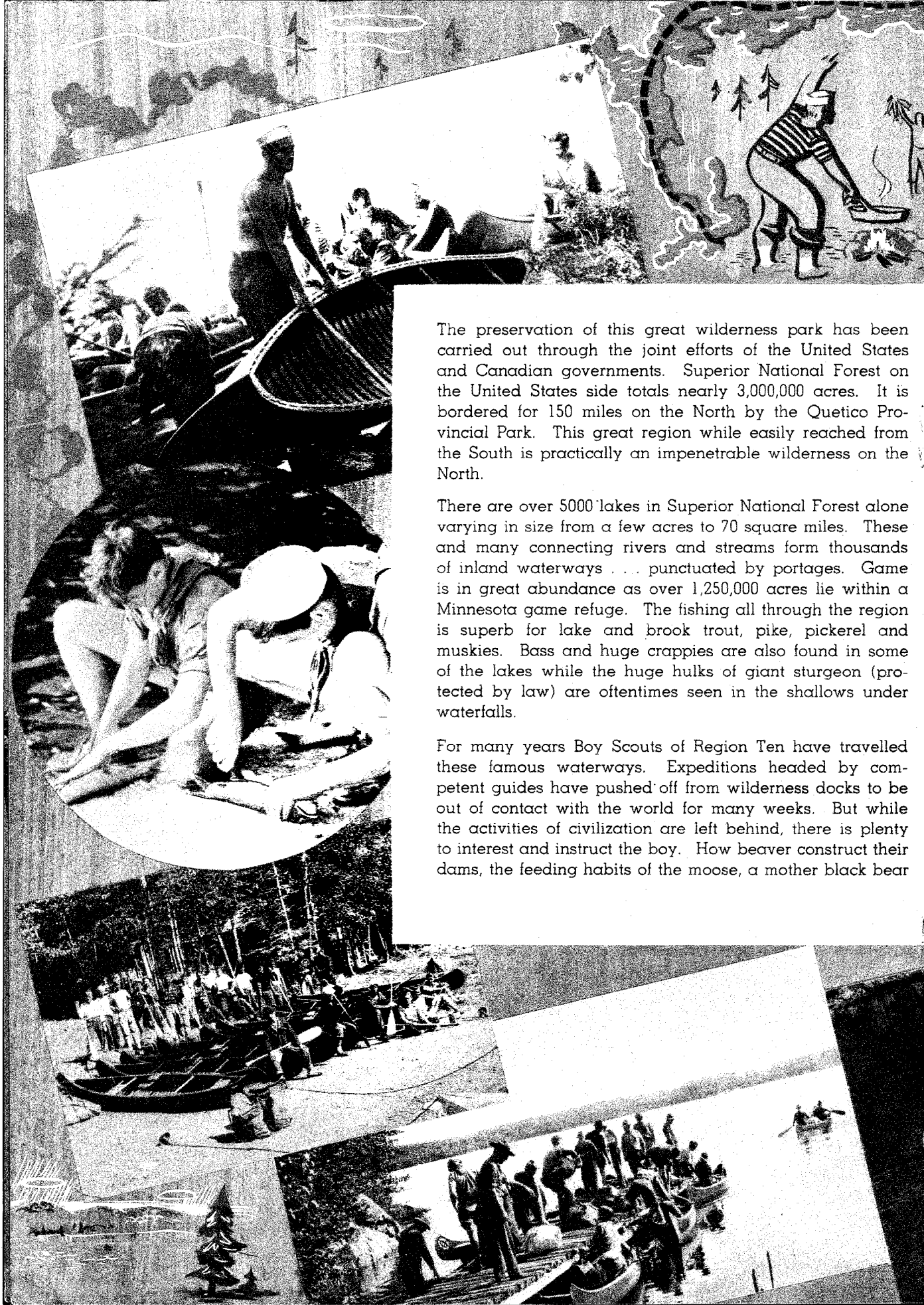




The voyageurs and coureurs des bois were pioneers of commerce on Lake Superior. They transported supplies from Montreal to Grand Portage and gathered furs from points as distant as the Saskatchewan and Peace Rivers. These adventurers were known to have pushed as far as Great Slave Lake and the Pacific Ocean in quest of furs. Their feats in open canoes loaded down with furs . . . through wild cataracts and storm swept lakes have given rise to some of the most picturesque music in America.

Quand j'étais chez mon Pe're
Petite Janeton,
Il M'envoyait a la fontaine
Pour pecher du poisson.
La Violette dande . . .

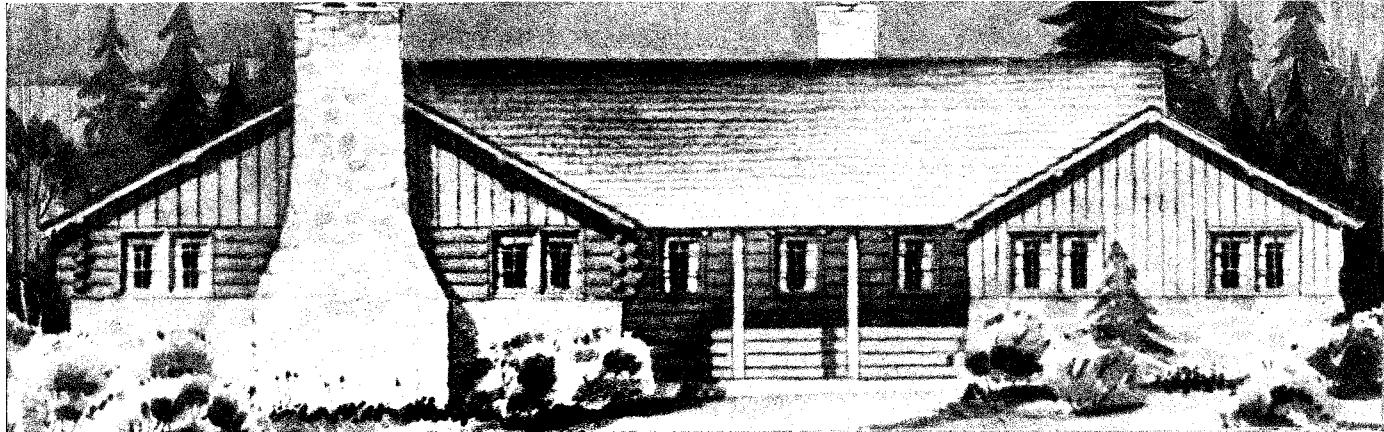
This vast region lying North of Lake Superior and far into Canada was originally inhabited by the Sioux. Later it was conquered by the Chippewa armed with the white man's musket. Then followed the fur trader and the lumberman who stripped some of the Southern areas adjacent to Lake Superior of its timber. Inland, however, giant pines still look down upon wilderness waterways as they did in the days of the Voyageur.



The preservation of this great wilderness park has been carried out through the joint efforts of the United States and Canadian governments. Superior National Forest on the United States side totals nearly 3,000,000 acres. It is bordered for 150 miles on the North by the Quetico Provincial Park. This great region while easily reached from the South is practically an impenetrable wilderness on the North.

There are over 5000 lakes in Superior National Forest alone varying in size from a few acres to 70 square miles. These and many connecting rivers and streams form thousands of inland waterways . . . punctuated by portages. Game is in great abundance as over 1,250,000 acres lie within a Minnesota game refuge. The fishing all through the region is superb for lake and brook trout, pike, pickerel and muskies. Bass and huge crappies are also found in some of the lakes while the huge hulks of giant sturgeon (protected by law) are oftentimes seen in the shallows under waterfalls.

For many years Boy Scouts of Region Ten have travelled these famous waterways. Expeditions headed by competent guides have pushed off from wilderness docks to be out of contact with the world for many weeks. But while the activities of civilization are left behind, there is plenty to interest and instruct the boy. How beaver construct their dams, the feeding habits of the moose, a mother black bear



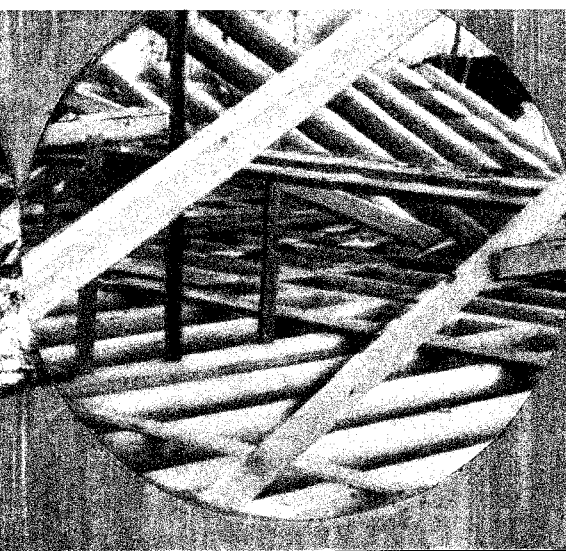
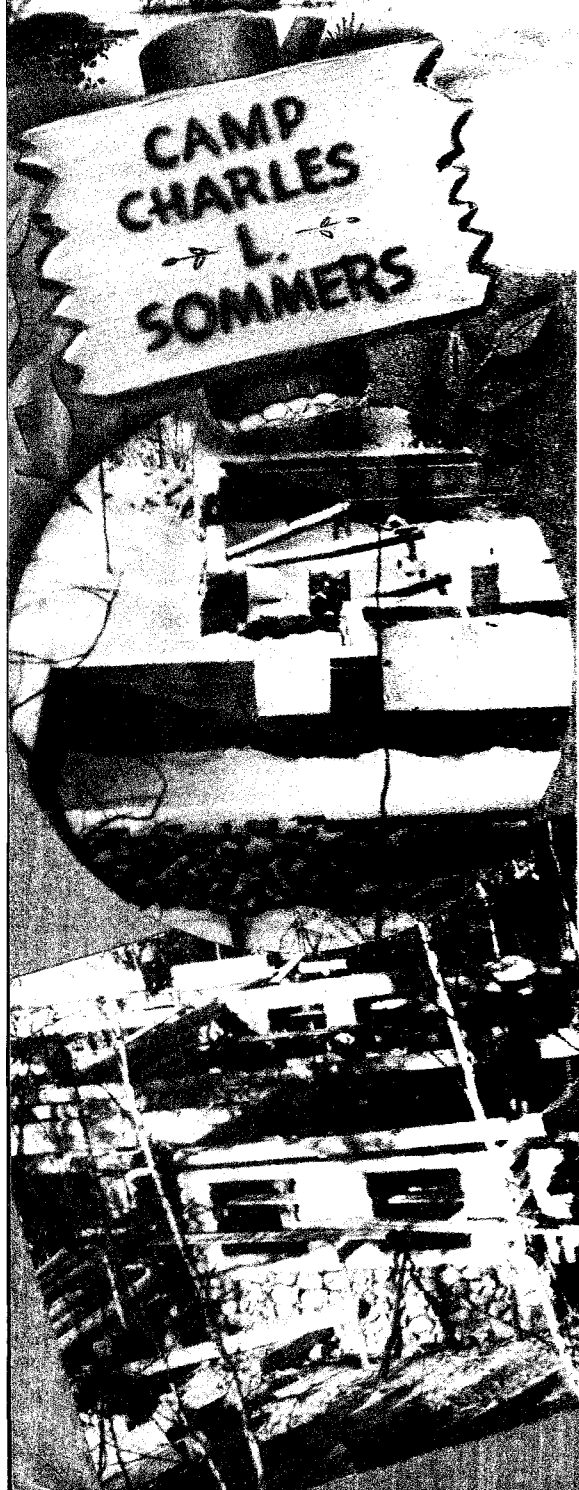
Region Ten has long felt the need for a base camp . . . a place where supplies could be cached and Scouts assembled and outfitted for trips into the wilderness. The importance of this form of Scout activity makes such an investment very necessary.

Through popular subscription this worthy object has at last been achieved. And as a tribute to one most of you know and love, this beautiful camp will be called "Camp Charles L. Sommers."

"Charlie" Sommers has given generously of his time and money for many years to render an invaluable service to Scouting. Yet so modestly and quietly has he done so that only those closely associated with him fully appreciate his worth. We feel that nothing could please "Charlie" more than the knowledge that boys for generations to come will be outfitting for their first great adventure at Camp Charles L. Sommers.

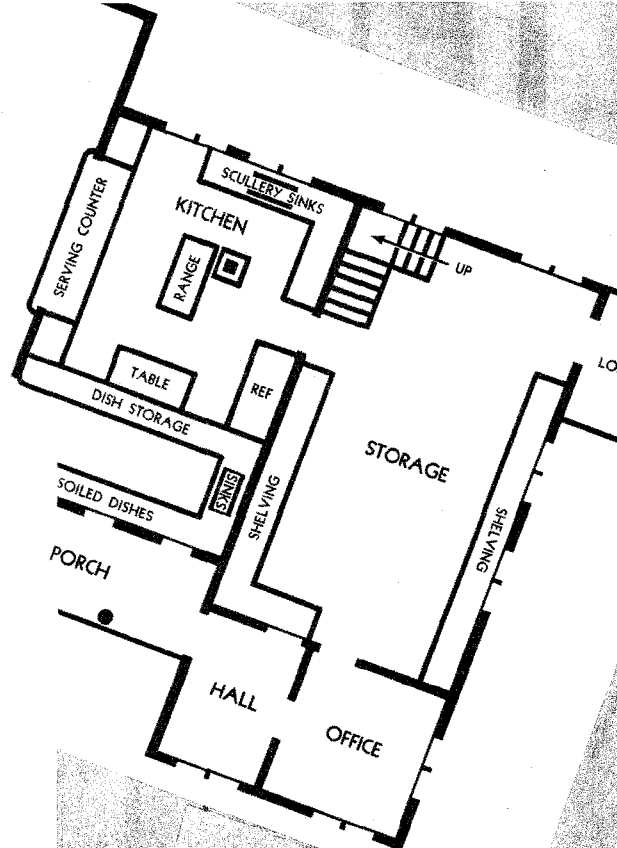


The lodge has just been completed. Here you see photo-





MAIN LODGE



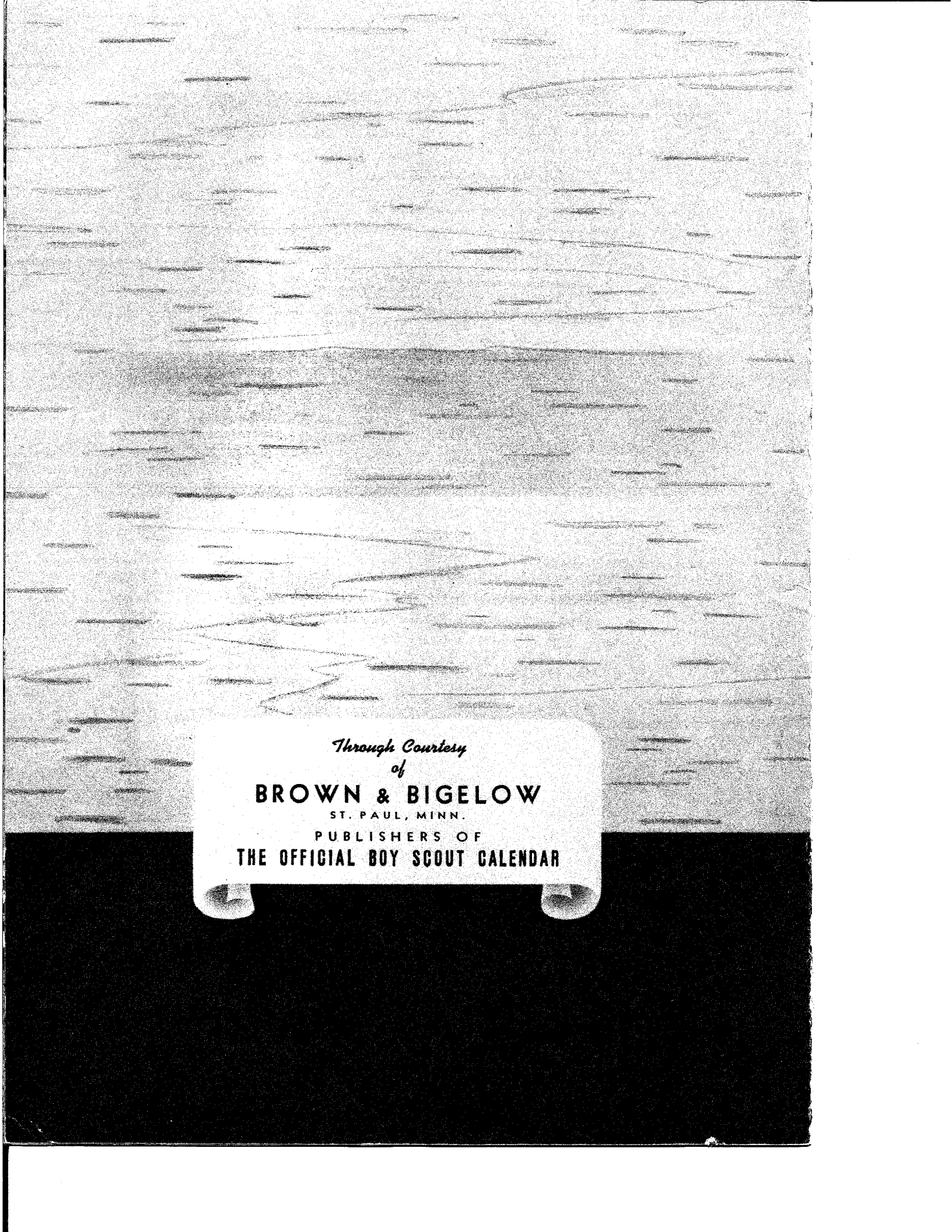
graphs taken during various stages of its construction. There are no sleeping quarters in the building . . . only cooking, dining, storage, and recreational facilities for rainy days. It was designed by the Engineering Service of the Boy Scouts of America and erected under the supervision of the United States Forest Service.

Standing on the Southeast shore of Moose Lake (see map on page 2) Camp Charles L. Sommers is ideally situated. It is only a comparatively short distance by water to Basswood Lake, a hub from which radiates many major canoe routes. At last Region Ten Scouts have a permanent foothold on this inland wilderness. It is a worthy way to acknowledge the generosity and service of "Charlie" Sommers.

2

Trips from this base are available to any Scout wherever he lives. For further information write your local Scout Office or Region Ten Headquarters, 1112 Minnesota Building, St. Paul, Minnesota.





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