

REGION TEN
WILDERNESS CANOE TRIPS
RECORD OF PADDLE AWARDS

NAME	Brill, Gregory E.
ADDRESS	910 Ravenswood Drive, Evansville, Indiana.
COUNCIL	Sou. Indiana
DATE OF TRIP	1939
GUIDE	Martin Koss

PADDLE AWARDS : DATE	
BRONZE	Through executive 11/9/39
GOLD	
SILVER	

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October 19, 1939

Mr. Ben C. Conger,
Deputy Regional Executive,
Region 10, Boy Scouts of America,
Minneapolis, Minn.

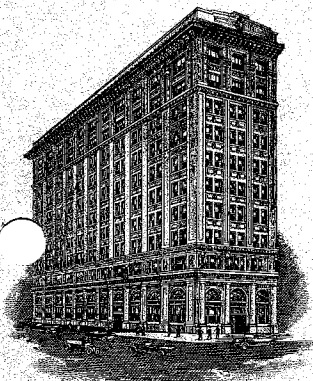
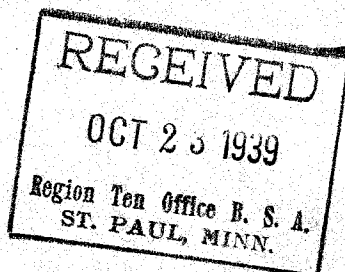
Dear Sir:

You will perhaps remember that on your last Wilderness Canoe Trip of the past season, camping with Marty Koss as leader were four campers from Evansville. During the week each of us met the requirements for the forestry merit badge and for the Bronze Paddle awards. All requirements for the latter were met except the story of the trip and the pictures. Within a week after arriving home this material had been mailed in to Marty Koss, Keokuk, Iowa. Since that time we have heard nothing concerning the awards from your office or from Marty. We would appreciate very much, a letter advising something about it.

May I also, take this opportunity to again thank you very much for the chance to make the canoe trip. All of us were very much pleased.

Yours truly,

Gregory E. Brill
Gregory E. Brill



October 24th
1 9 3 9

Mr. Gregory Brill
Evansville, Indiana

Dear Mr. Brill:-

I regret that you have had difficulty
in securing the Canoe Paddle Award.

I think Marty Koss can be addressed
at 2112 9th Ave., Hibbing, Minnesota. It
might be well for you to write and ask him
to forward the papers to us or return
them to you. I will write him too. So
far we haven't received the applications.

Cordially yours,
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Kenneth G. Bents
Regional Executive

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October 24th
1939

Mr. Martin Koss
2112 9th Ave.
Hibbing, Minn.

Dear Marty:-

We have a letter from Gregory Brill complaining he has not yet received his Canoe Paddle Award, tho he sent the application to you in Iowa.

I presume the papers have been lost somewhere in the mail, but if you have them, will you rush them on to us?

Cordially yours,
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Kenneth G. Bantz
Regional Executive

November 9th
1 9 3 9

Mr. Gregory E. Brill
910 Ravenswood Drive
Evansville, Indiana

Dear Gregory:-

We find that Martin Koss moved to
Iowa where he is working this winter.

He finally forwarded your applica-
tion with the others from Evansville
for the Bronze Paddle Award. We are
sending all the awards to your Executive
for presentation.

Cordially yours,
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Kenneth G. Bonta
Regional Executive

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Gregory E. Brill, 910 Ravenswood Drive, Evansville, Ind.

Our Evansville party arrived in Ely, Minn. about 1:30 P.M. Sunday, August 20, and then we had about 22 miles of gravel road to Hibbard's Lodge.

Up until this time all the roads traveled had been improved roads in very good condition and now this stony trail road seemed unusually rough. We passed many signs of fishing lodges and it seemed that our destination would never appear. Finally we came to a sign for Hibbards Lodge and turned into what we expected to be a short lane. It was anything but short and was full of surprises, mad holes, sharp turns, sudden drops and rough roads. All of our good will began to ooze out but about then we began to notice some road signs. They contained such information as, "Speed limit, 30 Miles", "No speeding, Cops about", "Courage, don't give up", "Nerts" etc. These preposterous signs made riding the road bearable and the originator of them used good psychology in taking our minds off the bad road.

Finally about 3:00 o'clock we drove into a clearing containing several buildings and on getting out of the car we saw a young man who greeted us and told us if we were looking for Scout Headquarters we were at the right place. He showed us up to a large cabin of pine where we saw several more men and boys. These proved to be the Ass't Regional Executive, Ben Conger and several guides. We introduced ourselves and were met in a fine friendly way by Mr. Conger and boys. He directed us where to park and to bring in our luggage into the lodge. The lodge consisted of one large 10 by 25 foot room containing 2 rows of triple-deck bunks and room for dining table at the front end near the entrance. Behind this space in front was a small office.

After depositing our luggage we had time to make our bunks for the night and then to have a look around, as we ~~er~~ were the first arrivals. Pretty soon others began to arrive and shortly after 4:30 about 52 men and boys had arrived.

About this time Mr. Conger brought around to us Marty Koss, who was to be our guide. The whole group of 52 was divided into 5 different groups to be heads by one of the guides and his assistant or swamper. Marty soon got our party consisting of our and four boys from Grand Rapids Minn. They were Anderson, Lilley, Swenson and Campbell. George Wilson of Aurora, Minn. was to be swamper. Marty gave us some information and instructions and helped us to select a trip. We decided to paddle to Ima Lake and make camp, then during the week to make short trips from there to other places, coming back on Friday and making the Lodge on Saturday morning. On the way back we were to make a side trip across the Canadian border.

Soon supper was called and we enjoyed it very much. At 8:00 o'clock the whole crowd ~~to~~ got together under leadership of Jack Layton, one of the guides, who first led some songs and introduced the crowd. Then he gave a fine history of canoeing in this section. Ray Dye, another guide, told of the iron and lumber industry in the section. Then different ones of the guides gave interesting facts and instructions on the trips. After that we were dismissed and to bed at 10:00 P.M.

Six A.M. Monday brought the call to get up and out. We were soon up and while waiting for breakfast most packed for the trip. Only what we considered necessary for use on the trip was to be packed, in the large pack sack furnished us together with a poncho and ground cloth.

As soon as breakfast was over Marty called our group together to give instruction in use and handling of canoes. About 10 o'clock we were ready to start and assembled on the dock to shove off. It was a beautiful warm morning and we had Ben Conger snap a picture as we pulled out. Our route was to be up Moose Lake from the Lodge into Newfound Lake. At the end of Newfound we came to our first portage of about 20 rods into Iron Lake. As quickly as we could we portaged and then found a shady spot to eat ~~lunch~~ lunch. Lunch was cold, consisting of pork loin sandwiches, rye crisp and peanut butter and fruit-ade finished up with a bar of chocolate.

After lunch we embarked on Iron Lake, a small one, then into Ensign Lake, a pretty large lake. After a long paddle we came to our longest portage of 118 rods into Bass Lake. We crossed Bass and had another fairly long portage into Gibson. Then we went into Pot Hole Jordan Lake and Jordan river, making three short portages and finally into Ima Lake, where we were to camp;

After crossing Ima we found other campers already camping on the spot we wanted up among the trees. After talking a few minutes to them Marty headed us over to another camp site on a large rock formation. Arriving there we unloaded and as it was nearing night Marty began preparation of dinner. First he took some large flat rocks and stood them up, making a face rectangle facing the lake. In the meantime the wood detail had been securing and chopping wood and the rest of the gang was erecting their tents. There was one large tent for five boys and three 2-men tents. The four Grand Rapids boys and Geo. Wilson took the large tent, Orling and Morris, one small tent, John and myself and Marty and Sam, who had joined our party that morning.

The three small tents were of the forester type and so we cut pole for them and as we could not drive stakes because of the rock, we used large loose rock to weight down the poles and sides. The rock and ground was fairly well covered with a deep, spongy moss called deer moss. We used this as a mattress.

Soon came the call to dinner and it surely hit the spot. Everyone was tired and hungry and they certainly enjoyed this hot food. By the time supper was over and the dishes cleaned up a fine campfire was blazing and so we gathered round. Almost immediately, we were greeted with one of Nature's grandest shows, the Northern Lights. As this was a new spectacle to our four, we were very much interested. The lights were awe-inspiring and grand, changing colors and formations from second to second.

To finish the evening Marty told us of the Region 10 Awards given to campers and the requirement to receive it. This is called the Bronze Paddle award. After this Marty told a story and as we were all tired out all went to bed and to sleep.

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Gregory E. Brill, 910 Ravenswood Drive, Evansville, Ind.

The requirements for the Bronze Paddle Award are as follows:

1. Be able to identify 25 trees and tell uses
2. Be able to identify 15 plants and state value
3. Learn at least one new camping skill
4. Send in 3 or more photos of interest taken by yourself.
5. Submit a story of the trip.
6. Complete 5 Merit Badge requirements while on the trip.

Tuesday morning the weather had changed and it was cloudy and rainy. The wind was blowing cold. About 6:30 we all got up and out and soon breakfast was prepared and finished up. On account of the bad weather instead of taking a canoe trip as planned we decided to remain in camp and work on requirements for the Bronze Paddle Award. This activity took up most of the day except eating. Along late in the afternoon Marty and George snagged a couple nice Northern pike and soon after Morris got a fine wall eye. These were prepared for dinner and were our first fish. At camp fire Marty passed some of us on our tress and plants and then told another story. All during the story we watched the play of the Northern lights. And off to bed.

Wednesday we were up early on another cloudy day but a little warmer so I took my first dip in the lake just before breakfast. The water was very clear and cold and felt fine to me. Then breakfast and another day of collecting specimen and fishing and various camp duties. Just before dinner Morris caught 2 more fish and later another one. Dinner us usual was good and hot. After the dinner the gange assembled around the camp fire and sang songs. Then to bed.

Thursday another cloudy morning was spent in short exploration trips, fishing, etc. After breakfast was over I wrote for a while in my camp log, and then near noon went out in a canoe with Sam to fish. We had been out about one half hour and were just getting ready to turn around to come to lunch when i felt a tug on my line. I pulled it in and landed a nice wall eye. We tried a few more casts then but had no luck. After luch was over John and I decided to make a bed of balsam boughs. We collected the tips of balsam limbs until we had a large pile and then began laying them onthe floor of our tent with the wood part toward the foot. First a straight row was laid accross the tent and then we started over laying each succeeding row to overlap like shingles. When we finished we had a nice springy fragrant bed and found out later that it was very comfortable.

While we were busy at this Morris and Sam were out fishing and Morris got 3 more wall eyes. Marty and Orlin were getting a collection of leaves and plants and the Grand Rapids boys and George were working on Pioneering Merit Badge requirements.

Dinnertime came and Marty got together another fine meal. After the meal Marty and I shaved by the light of the fire and flashlights. After songs around the daamp fire we went to bed.

Friday morning we were to break camp and so were up early on a very foggy morning. Soon Breakfast was ready including plenty of wall eyes and bout that time the sun came out. As soon as possible after eating, everything was packed up and a bout nine o'clock we shoved off to return to the Lodge. Every one was feeling fine and the day was excellent so we had a fine trip.

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Gregory E. Brill, 910 Ravenswood Drive, Evansville, Ind.

Across Ima into Jordan River and lake and then thru the lakes and portages into Newfound about 1:00 P.M. Here we stopped for lunch and rest and as we had been paddling pretty hard, most of the party voted to continue directly on down Moose Lake instead of going into Canada. However since it was only about 3 miles up Sucker Lake when we started out Marty headed up that way. We had changed partners in the canoes a little, I going into Marty's canoe and Sam taking my place and later Orling came over into Marty's canoe. Paddling with Marty was very much different for both of us and our bowmen had not been so effective. We paddled up to a point in Canada just south of Birch Lake and got out and looked out over the lake and took several pictures.

We then returned down Sucker lake and down into Moose lake. We met several fishing parties and at one camping spot saw Jack Layton's party already camped for the night. About six-thirty we landed at a portage and made camp. Marty and I started supper while the rest of the gang put up the tents. Space was rather short so the tents were not located too well. At 7:00 o'clock supper was being eaten and soon after supper most of the boys went to bed worn out. About 9 o'clock I decided to take a bath and swim and Marty and Orling agreed to go in also. The water was cold but the worst thing was the rough footing. After I got out into deep water, I thoroughly enjoyed it but Orlin and Marty nearly froze. I came in and took a good rub-down and then to bed, on the hillside among the stones. Naturally I didn't sleep too well.

Orling and I got up about 5:30 and started a fire and soon Marty was up and began breakfast. Everybody was hungry and it was cleaned up and the packing began for the last time.. After everything was packed we took several photos of the group and about 8:00 A.M. started on the last of the journey to Hubbard's Lodge.

We passed several more parties and saw another Scout group and arrived at the dock about 10:30. We unloaded our packs and took the canoes up and began to clean up and pack to go home. By noon we were all packed up and then we had our final lunch. At this time we were given the Region 10 Wilderness Canoe Trails medalion and a map of the lakes region. Marty expressed his pleasure as guide of our party and good byes were said to all the party. We then expressed our thanks to Mr. Conger and the other guides for their fine spirit and reception of us.

We had driven almost 1000 miles to spend a week, canoeing, camping and fishing. We had met some fine new friends and made some lasting friendships. Everyone had been congenial and we had plenty of good food and comfortable beds. The days were filled with enjoyable things to do and last but not least all 10 of our party had met the requirements for the Forestry merit badge and the Bronze Paddle Award. Also at lunch Marty had indicated that our group had been more enjoyable to him as guide than any other of his parties of the summer. So ended a fine new experience with a host of pleasant memories and a fine friendship with our guide, Marty Koss.

Gregory E. Brill.

Gregory E. Brill, 910 Ravenswood Drive, Evansville, Ind.

Bronze Paddle
List of 25 trees identified for Forestry Merit Badge.

	used for	
White pine	interior finishing and pattern making.	
Norway pine	Spars, piling, sills	
Jack pine,	Fence posts, ties and telephone poles	
White spruce	General construction and paper pulp	
Black spruce	Paper pulp, construction, piling and gum	
Blue spruce	" " " "	
Balsam	Paper pulp, medically and arts, beds.	
Tamarack	Fence posts, ties, telephone poles,	
Arbor vitae	Landscaping, shingles, barrel staves	
Dwarf juniper	landscaping	
Quaking aspen	paper pulp, excelsior, beaver food	
White birch	spools, shoe pegs, lathes, fuel	
White Speckled Alder	no value	
Tag alder	no value	
Hazel brush	no value, edible nuts	
Silver willow	no value	
Sand Bar willow	no value	
Mountain Ash	no value, used for shade trees	
Purple osier	no value	
Arrowwood	no value	
Pin cherry	no value, edible fruit	
Choke cherry	no value, " "	
June berry	" " " "	
Red maple	furniture, woodenware, wood turning, sugar	
Flowering Dogwood	pulleys, mallets, shuttles.	
Wild rose	no value, flower	
Raspberry	no value, edible fruit	
Blue Berry	no value, edible fruit.	

Gregory E. Brill, 910 Ravenswood Drive, Evansville, Ind.

Brandy paddle
List of 15 plants for Forestry merit badge.

Sasparilla	roots edible
Pearly everlasting	flower
Maiden hair fern	"
Milk weed	soil formation,
Bunch berry	flowers
Broad leaf aster	"
Canadian Violet	"
Ground pine	soil formation
fire bush	flowers
early golden rod	"
lance leaf golden rod	"
flag or iris	"
Straw berry	edible fruit
Solomans seal	flowers
pigeon wheat moss	soil formation
deer moss	" "
rock fungi	" "
Wild honeysuckle	flower



GREGORY E. BRILL